

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [Registered for Transmission Abroad.]

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THE PEOPLE OFFICE.

Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

BERLIN, Dec. 1.—To-day, the Reichstag continued the debate upon the budget. Herr Windthorst (Ultramontane) pointed out the evils arising from the simultaneous session of the Reichstag, Provincial Diets, and South German Diets.

Herr Botticher, Secretary of State, replied that for the purpose of meeting the evils complained of the Government had summoned the Reichstag prior to the Prussian Diet. A further remedy might be found, if the House would adopt the Government proposal for biennial instead of annual budgets, and if the members would exercise greater self-restraint during the debates. Replying to a complaint of Herr von Pletten (Ultramontane), that several large firms had suffered losses, from various causes, at the Exhibition in Melbourne, Herr Botticher declared that no complaints against the Imperial Commissioner had reached the Government from any quarter. The injuries sustained by exhibitors through their agents could only be redressed by legal proceedings.

On the discussion of the item for the expenses of the Economic Council, Herr von Benda (National Liberal) stated that his party would vote against the grant on the ground that the Council, both in form and substance, lacked all the requisite conditions of responsibility.

Prince Bismarck pointed out that a purely technical preparation of bills for the Reichstag was absolutely necessary in view of the overburdened condition of particular ministerial departments, and the frequently unpractical wording of the proposals. Political motives should not be attributed to the Government in this question. It would be hard, and would display a want of confidence if the House refused him the means of obtaining the information that was necessary for legislation. Should it do so he would ultimately be compelled to request the Governments of the different States to send their own deputies to the Prussian Economic Council.

At a subsequent stage of the debate, Prince Bismarck again addressed the House, energetically urging the adoption of the item under discussion, but on a vote being taken it was rejected by 169 against 83.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 1, Evening.—The Chamber of Deputies to-day commenced the debate upon the report of the Committee upon the supplementary votes for the Tunisian Expedition. M. Gambetta, in reply to various speakers, said:—“The Bardo Treaty exists, and no protest can invalidate it. The Government cannot yet say in what way they will follow up the establishment of a French Protectorate in Tunis, but the military operations which have been undertaken will be rigorously prosecuted. A Bill will ultimately be brought in for giving effect to the Bardo Treaty, and the Government will endeavour both financially and by means of the customs to reduce to a minimum the burthens laid upon the country by that treaty, which must not be allowed to result either in annexation or abandonment. The Bardo Treaty permits of the suppression of abuses in the Bey's administration, which it is to the interest of all nations to see suppressed. This task is imposed upon France by the virtue of the policy she has adopted, which is not one of annexation, but of protection.” M. Gambetta declared that he should not be hostile to all idea of annexation as dangerous, adding:—“The abandonment of Tunis would compromise our prestige and would involve a formidable responsibility. The question is whether we desire, without rushing into adventures, to have a foreign policy. We cannot abandon Tunis. The regency will be a vigilant and necessary door-keeper for our African colony. There is no intention of pushing the military occupation as far as the frontier of Tripoli, because it is not desirable to have the Porte for an immediate neighbour. The protectorate over the Regency far from being annexation is its negation. The Bardo Treaty is a ratified law whose stipulations must be executed. The Government will make proposals with regard to the manner of executing the treaty in proper time and place.”

After several speeches had been delivered, M. Du Rodan, a member of the Right, declared that he and his friends would vote for the credit demanded by the Government. The Prince de Leon stated that his friends and himself would vote for the grant required for the expedition in South Oran, but not for the expenses incurred in Tunis.

The separate articles of the credit were then adopted, but before the Chamber proceeded to a division on the whole grant, M. Perin reproached M. Gambetta with drawing the country into Colonial adventures. He added that M. Gambetta's speech implied the annexation of the Regency in a disguised form, and said that it was not prudent for France to scatter her forces over the face of the earth, as was done by England. M. Gambetta replied as follows:—

“We are not in the same position as England. We desire to pursue a French policy, and to bequeath intact to those that follow us the patrimony we received. Our policy is of a defensive and national character, and is directed towards the development of the interests of the country.”

After a short reply from M. Perin, the whole credit was voted by 400 to 52. The Extreme Left abstained from voting.

ALGERIA AND TUNIS.

PARIS, Dec. 2.—A despatch from Algiers announces the arrival of General Delebecque's column at Ain-Sefra on the 28th ult. Nearly the whole of the Ahour tribe had submitted to the French authorities.

General Sausier telegraphs from Gafsa on the 29th ult. that the greater part of the insurgents had been driven beyond the Schotts, but that a number of those who had sought refuge in the mountains 60 miles east of Gafsa, fired upon some French reconnoitring detachments. Four infantry battalions and a battery of artillery under General Gislain together with a cavalry force under General Bonie were consequently sent in pursuit of the insurgents, with whom they came up after two days' march. The enemy's positions were ransacked, and the troops subsequently occupied the fortified village of Laicha and a village inhabited by the Ouled-Boussand tribe. The despatch adds that the enemy sustained heavy loss, while the French had one man killed and four wounded.

ITALY.

ROME, Dec. 1.—The Opinions of to-day publishes an article in which it expresses regret that the new Italian Ambassador in Paris has not yet been appointed. It adds:—“The semi-official press had stated that he would be appointed after the conclusion of the Franco-Italian Treaty of Commerce. Now this Treaty has been concluded, and M. Gambetta has promised promptly to obtain its approval by the Chamber. A choice of an Ambassador must be made which will be acceptable to France, but which will at the same time express dignified reserve on the part of Italy. Italy and France desire to live in peace, but there exists between them a feeling of disagreement, slumbering but not extinct, on the subject of Tunis. We hope that M. Gambetta will see his way, without detracting from the greatness of France, to give Italy legitimate satisfaction. The choice of an ambassador at Paris may also be of great importance from the point of view of our political relations with Germany and Austria. Why was not the recent journey of the King and Queen continued to Berlin? Are our relations with Germany as intimate as with Austria? The relations between Germany and the Vatican are improving. Let us consider what effect this improvement may have on the relations existing between Germany and Italy. Everything is possible in Europe, which, at the present time, is so undermined and so disturbed, and the clerical newspapers are already discussing a radical combination, in which the Pope is to be lavish of concessions to Prince Bismarck, and the latter is to support the Pope in claiming back his temporal power.”

THE VICEROY OF INDIA.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 2.—The Viceroy and Lady Ripon returned here to-day.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

PARIS, Dec. 2.—M. Gambetta handed to General Chanzy this morning his letters of recall from the post of Ambassador to the Court of St. Petersburg. The General will shortly proceed to the Russian capital by way of Berlin to take leave of the Emperor. He has accepted an important command in the French army.

MASSACRE IN BULGARIA.

SOFIA, Dec. 1.—Intelligence received here from Kustendil reports that a family of ten persons, named Staminko, have been massacred at Lonka, in Bulgaria, by the command of a Turkish frontier post, named Ali, holding the rank of captain in the regular Turkish army. The account adds that Ali was accompanied by nine Turkish soldiers, who, after committing the crime, pillaged Staminko's house. The affair caused great excitement throughout the country.

THE BEILUL MASSACRE.

ROME, Dec. 2.—A telegram from Cairo states that the Commissioner selected by the Italian Government to assist in the new inquiry into the circumstances of the massacre of the Giulietti exploration party in the district of Beilul is Signor Vito, Italian Vice-Consul at Suez. His Egyptian colleague is Ali Pacha Rida, governor of the coast.

TURKISH FINANCE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 1.—At to-day's sitting of the Financial Commission, Mr. Bourke formally protested against the sum to be accorded to the bondholders of the tobacco monopoly being limited to £7800,000. He proposed that the profits from the monopoly should be divided between the Turkish government and the bondholders. M. Valfrey proposed that those profits should be shared by the government, the bondholders, and the company formed for working the monopoly, on conditions to be settled by the parties interested. The Austrian and German delegates, and MM. Gescher, Wettendorf, Bertram, and Oshanes supported M. Valfrey's proposal. The Government will decide between the two propositions on Monday next.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 2.—The Galata bankers have refused to assent to the new draft, prepared by Herr Wettendorf, of the Trade, embodying the convention between the Porte and the bondholders. They demand that a clause shall be inserted providing for the representation of the bankers on the Board of Administration, and expressly recognising their claim to priority of payment in respect of the annuity of £7800,000 due to them under the arrangement with the bondholders' delegates; and they further insist that the Trade shall embrace the text of the Convention concluded by them with the Government. Herren Gescher and Wettendorf have been empowered to enter into communication with the Ottoman Bank with a view to the settlement of this new difficulty.

GREECE.

ATHENS, Dec. 2.—Private letters received here state that several arrests have been made, and a number of people examined by the Turkish authorities, in order to elicit disclosures respecting a quantity of firearms which are reported to be concealed in the monasteries on Mount Athos.

GREECE AND THE PORTE.

PARIS, Dec. 3.—The Memorial Diplomatique to-day states that the British Government has offered its mediation for arranging the difference between the Porte and the Greek Government on the subject of the loss of the Greek post-offices.

CHOLERA IN THE EAST.

BATAVIA, Dec. 2.—Batavia has been officially declared to be free from cholera.

ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 2.—The Sanitary Commission have received a telegram from Constantinople, according to which only one death occurred from cholera at Mecca on November 19, and one on November 20. At Djeddah, on November 22 and November 23, there were no fatal cases. No news with regard to the cholera has been received from Elwedj.

RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 2.—The fête of the Order of St. George will be held this year at Gatchina, on the 8th instant. The Novorossia and the St. Petersburg Viewpoint condemn as utterly groundless the rumours which are constantly circulating here of impending changes in the higher branches of the administration.

THE IRISH NATIONAL CONVENTION.

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—The Irish National Convention is attended by 800 delegates. The Rev. Mr. Betts, an Episcopalian clergyman from St. Louis, has been elected permanent chairman. Some opposition on religious grounds was made to this choice, but Father Sheehy supported it, arguing that the Convention was a political and not a religious body.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—\$8,000,000 in cash have been raised among the delegates attending the Irish National Convention. A committee has been appointed to solicit Mr. Blaine to take action in order to obtain the liberation of the American citizens imprisoned in Ireland. The Convention adjourned after the election of an Executive Committee of seven members, charged to carry out the pledges given in the resolutions which have been adopted.

CANADA.

OTTAWA, Dec. 1.—The Customs and Excise returns of the Dominion for the first five months of the current fiscal year show an excess of 1,700,000 dols. as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1, Evening.—Mr. Patrick Egan, treasurer of the Irish Land League, has telegraphed from Paris to the Irish National Convention, at Chicago, that it is estimated that the tenants of properties yielding a total rental of £10,000,000 have refused to pay any rent.

LATEST GENERAL NEWS.

Sir James Paget.

This distinguished surgeon, who has been ailing for a short time, was materially better on Friday, and will probably be able in a few days to betake himself to a more genial climate.

The Late Lady Lascelles.

On Friday, the funeral of the late Lady Lascelles in the Brompton Cemetery was attended by her eldest son, Captain Lascelles, Major Lascelles, and Miss Lascelles, Lord Hartington, the Marquis of Lorne, many leading members of the Devonshire family, Lord and Lady Chesham, the Hon. Mrs. Grenfell, the Hon. Mrs. Grey, and Mrs. Temple, the wife of the Bishop of Exeter.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Natal.

The Press Association is informed, on the highest authority, that the Government, actuated by a desire to promote the welfare of the Colony of Natal, has determined thoroughly to consider the complaints of the colonists with regard to the appointment of Mr. Sendall.

The Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P.

The Press Association is authorised to state that there is not a word of truth in the report that the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., intends to resign the secretaryship to the Board of Trade.

The Metropolitan Police.

On Friday afternoon Capt. W. C. Harris, C.B., the retiring Assistant Commissioner of Police, was presented by the officers and men of the Metropolitan Police Force with a massive service of silver plate of the value of £200.

The Tayport Railway Collision.

George Barnett, guard of the goods train which came into collision with a passenger train at Tayport station, was apprehended on Friday morning on a charge of culpable homicide, and conveyed to Cupar Prison.

Supposed Suicide of a German Lady.

Information was on Friday forwarded to Mr. Burroughs, coroner's officer of Bethnal-green, of the death of a lady named Mary Muller, who was found dead in her bed shortly after eight o'clock. The deceased was the widow of a photographer, who once held a good position in the City, but became reduced in circumstances, and in consequence committed suicide. Since then the deceased made an application to the German Society of London for a free passage to enable her to return to her own country, and her request was granted; but pending the arrival of the necessary documents she resided with a Mrs. Barton Miller, of 2, East-street, Bethnal-green, and from the depressed manner of the deceased, and other signs, that person is of opinion that the deceased committed suicide.

The "Devil" on Exhibition.

During the past few weeks repeated reports have been brought in by the crews of the Yarmouth fishing boats of depredations to their nets by Ostend trawlers by means of the implement called "the devil," with which the nets and warps are cut and taken away. A boat called the "M. A. B." has just put into Yarmouth Harbour, having on board a "devil," which they captured from the crew of an Ostend boat, which ran into their nets and cut them away. When remonstrated with, the foreign crew pelted the Englishmen with large stones, and two of them were struck and severely cut. The "devil," however, was secured, and is now on exhibition in Yarmouth. It is a sharp instrument, with four arms, and, no doubt, capable of doing serious damage among nets and warps.

Mysterious Drowning Case.

On Friday, Dr. Langham held an inquest at the City Coroner's Court touching the death of William Burke, a porter, of St. Martin's-lane, who was found drowned in the Thames, off Billingsgate. John Turner, a watchman, stated that on Friday last he heard a splash in the water at 4 1/2 a.m., and saw the deceased's hat floating in the river, but, although he procured a hither and probed the bottom, he could not then find the body, which had, very likely, been sucked beneath the "dummy." How the deceased got into the water was a mystery. Further evidence was given showing that the place where the deceased was supposed to have fallen into the water was extremely dark, there being no light whatever during the night and early morning. Several deaths had occurred, and men were constantly falling into the water. The jury returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased was accidentally drowned; and we recommend the Corporation of the City of London to at once provide proper lavatory accommodation at Billingsgate, with ropes and chains to the dummies, and proper lamps on the spot. We also hope that drags and life-buoys will also at once be provided there."

Fatal Railway Accident.

Joseph Carter, employed at the wagon works at the railway station, Bromsgrove, was knocked down and killed early on Friday morning by a passing goods train.

Threatened Strike in the Nail Trade.

The persons employed in the horse-nail trade in Staffordshire and Worcestershire received intimation on Friday that the employers had unanimously decided not to grant an increase of threepence per thousand in wages. Arrangements are being made for a general strike to take place, the operatives contending that they are bound to demand their rights, as they cannot possibly get a living at the present prices.

Embezzlement at Birmingham.

The Birmingham magistrates on Friday sentenced John Francis Donnelly, secretary of the Birmingham and Midland Counties St. Patrick's Benefit Society, to six months' imprisonment for embezzling various sums of money entrusted to his care. The prisoner admitted the offence.

Suicide of an Officer at Windsor.

On Friday, a gentleman known as Mr. Burdett, but whose real name is Lieut.-Colonel Stanley, late 47th Foot, entered the Castle Hotel, Windsor, and requested leave to write in the commercial room. Shortly afterwards it was found that he had shot himself dead with a revolver, which was found in his hand. The deceased was a relative of the late Dean Stanley, and had seen considerable service in India. He was well known to the officers of the Guards.

Oldham and the Foreign Tariffs.

The secretary of the Oldham Employers' Association has written to Earl Granville, pointing out that the Spanish duties on Oldham yarns and manufactures are in most cases prohibitive, and asserting that they ought to be admitted under the most favoured nation clause.

Suicide from Westminster Bridge.

On Friday afternoon, Mr. Carter, coroner for East Surrey, received information from his officer of the suicide of a man unknown. The deceased, who is well dressed, was seen about eleven o'clock on the previous night, wandering over Westminster Bridge, when, on reaching the second arch, near St. Thomas's Hospital,

he divested himself of his over-coat and under-coat, and leaped over the iron parapet. He was seen to struggle in the water, by the aid of the lamps on the Albert Embankment, but before assistance could reach him he sank, and was drowned. At the time the tide was running up strong. At an early hour yesterday morning, the police dragged up the body, which was removed to the dead-house in Lambeth, to await identification and an inquest. The deceased is about 40 years of age. On his clothing being searched, there were no documents or letters found which might lead to his identification.

Heavy Weather in the Atlantic.

The State Line steamer, State of Indiana, bound from New York for Glasgow, with a general cargo and passengers, arrived at Queenstown on Thursday night, with loss of propeller. She left New York on the 17th instant, and all went well until eight o'clock on the 28th, when she lost her propeller in a gale. The steamer Glasgow, bound from Liverpool for Boston, put into Queenstown on Friday morning to fill up coal, having been nineteen days at sea. She reports having experienced terrific gales, in which she had her wheelhouse carried away, and one boat smashed.

Fatal Accident on the Railway.

On Friday morning, Henry Benton, a hobbler, of Walsall, while walking along the line between Wolverhampton and Willenhall, stumbled over a signal wire, and fell on the metals. Before he could rise a train from Wolverhampton passed over him, severing his head from his body. He leaves a widow and three children.

Typhoid Fever at Oldham.

An epidemic of typhoid fever, attributed to unwholesome water, has broken out at Oldham.

A Steam Tug Sunk.

The steam tug Endeavour, of Dover, whilst at anchor off Kingstown, was run down and sunk early on Friday morning by the barque Cricket. The crew of the tug, however, succeeded in getting on board the barque, and were afterwards landed at Deal. The barque sustained but little damage.

LATEST FROM IRELAND.

Release of a Suspect on Parole.

Mr. A. J. Hoare, of Castle Dermott, county Kildare, was on Thursday released on parole from Nass gaol to attend the funeral of his mother, who died on the previous day.

Evictions in Western Cork.

The evictions on the estate of Lord Bantry, near Castletown, Berhaven, were resumed on Thursday. Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., again accompanied the sheriff. Up to the present all the tenants have submitted to the arrangements made by the landlord, and gone back to their holdings as caretakers on paying a year's rent and costs, but on Thursday Miss Reynolds, of Dublin, the representative of Miss Parnell, advised a tenant to pay no rent and allow himself to be evicted, and the Land League, she said, would build a house for him near the farm, and support him there. The tenants adopted the advice, and was accordingly evicted.

A Suspect Elected Mayor.

Mr. John Morgan, at present a suspect in Dundalk gaol, who was elected alderman since his arrest and imprisonment, was, on Thursday, unanimously elected Mayor of Drogheda for the ensuing year 1882, amidst a scene of much excitement.

The Dublin Assizes.

In opening the Dublin Winter Assizes, on Thursday, Mr. Justice Harrison pointed to the alarming increase of crime in the counties of Wicklow, Westmeath, Meath, Louth and Kildare. Arson was largely on the increase, as also were threatening letters.

More Arrests.

On Thursday morning the police arrested Mr. William Hart, secretary of the late Land League branch at Birr, King's County, as a suspect, and he was conveyed to Clonmel Gaol. Mr. J. L. White, shopkeeper, Tullow; Mr. Edward Kelly, shopkeeper, Hacketstown; and Messrs. D. Lyons, and Nicholas Toole formerly residing near Hacketstown, County Carlow, were also arrested under the Coercion Act, and sent to Nass gaol.

Four Ladies Shot at.

As Mrs. Bentley and her three daughters were driving home to their residence at Huleston, near Broadford, county Clare, in an open carriage, two rifle shots were fired at them. One of the bullets whizzed close to the coachman's head; but fortunately no one was hurt. One of the men who fired was seen walking away without any concealment. Mr. Bentley is a magistrate of the county, and shots were recently fired into his house. The only motive that can be assigned for the outrage is that as Guardian of Limerick Union he refused to support the censure of the Government for arresting Mr. Parnell.

About 150 processes for rent have been served on the estates of Colonel King-Harman. Some 250 of his tenants have applied to the Land Court to have a fair rent fixed. Over three-fourths of the number will not proceed with their cases fearing the rents would be raised. More than eight hundred tenants have paid without receiving any abatement. Four hundred of Mr. Kaddell's tenants, headed by several priests, went into Boyle on Friday, and after refusing to accept a reduction of 15 per cent., declined to pay any rent.

THE DIAMOND ROBBERY.

It is said that the police have obtained a clue to the Post Office thief, which they are rapidly following up, being very sanguine of success. It is assumed that the statement recently published to the effect that so far as Scotland-yard was concerned the inquiry had been abandoned, has led to the thief committing some act of indiscretion that will lead to his apprehension. A Berlin correspondent telegraphed on Thursday that one of the perpetrators of the robbery is believed to have been seen a few days ago in Seltgenstadt, a small town in Upper Hesse. A man who had formerly been a navy, and who was somewhat tipsy, showed there over twenty diamonds of rare size, partly cut and partly uncut. He said he had found them at the diggings in America. It was only on the following day that the London diamond robbery became known there. The police at once went in search of the possessor of the diamonds, but all efforts to find him proved fruitless; he had left for Mayence.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.—We are informed that, should no unforeseen impediment occur, the contractors for the new law courts hope to be able to hand them over to the Commissioner of Works in time to enable the judges and their staff to occupy the building on the first day of Easter Term. The courts at Westminster, Lincoln's-inn, and Chancery-lane will then be abolished. Those in Lincoln's-inn (never intended to be permanent), will be immediately pulled down.

The Manchester November Handicap, the last great event of the flat racing season, was something of a surprise—the victory of Gladina, for whom 7 to 1 was laid, being generally unexpected, though those who were "in the know" had reason to congratulate themselves on the soundness of their judgment and the correctness of their information. Mr. Jack's horse, however, had to put out all that was in

LIVING IN FRANCE.

At the Birmingham police-court on Wednesday, James Greaves, landlord of the Dolphin Inn, Suffolk-street, was fined 20d and costs for habitually harbouring persons known to be convicted thieves.

South Africa

A Strange Government

Force is no Remedy.

The Conservative Camp?

The Boer Republic

has told us that during our stay in South Africa we convined at the pleasure of the inhabitants. That is the reward which the Government have received for their wrongdoings; and I venture to predict—so: the prophecy is a most safe one—that the terms of that convention, agreed to under protest, will not be carried out, and that we shall see trouble of the gravest possible kind, not only in the Transvaal, but in South to South Africa, pray to Heaven that it may be averted.

Look at Ireland; where the people have been crying for the last 100 years, "Give us the law, give us the law," and still the law is not given.

Lord Hartington,

who is one of the more moderate members of the Government, has lately been speaking on this subject. He has spoken with ability and sense; but, naturally, when he touched upon Ireland, he spoke in a very hesitating and apologetic manner, but I ask you to contrast what Lord Cairns has said with the strange document that appeared in the newspapers yesterday and which professed to be an electioneering statement made by the Solicitor-General in Ireland. In that document was arranged in parallel columns the original rents of a certain number of holdings and then the sums to which those rents have been reduced by the Land Courts, so, on the ground that Mr. Gladstone has reduced their rents, the Solicitor-General appealed to the poor tenantry for their votes. I will not stop to discuss the morality of such a proceeding, but it is long since a Member of the Crown has condescended to vote so extraordinary an argument in order to gain the votes of a constituency. (Hear, hear.) All I can say is, if the doctrines pronounced by the Land Courts are correct, then Mr. Parnell and the Land League are very greatly justified. There was once a great people who not only made their laws, but insisted upon their being obeyed when they had made them, who, following that motto which I see before me ("Imperium est Libertas") knew how to reconcile order and liberty, and the Senate of that great people, we are told, were wont on occasions to meet in the Temple of Liberty, signifying this, that as the object of their discussions was liberty, so were their discussions free. Depend upon this, that whenever free speech ceases in the House of Commons they may call that body by any name they please, but freedom will have gone forth from her ancient and venerable shrine. (Cheers.)

At a meeting of the London School Board, on Thursday, there was a large attendance of the general public.—Mr. Gover moved that the reports of the board inspector on the industrial schools under the control of the board, and on the children sent by the board to other industrial schools be printed and reported by the industrial schools committee from time to time for the information of the board.—The Rev. George M. Murphy moved:—"That the board present a memorial under its seal to the Home Secretary, praying that a special inquiry be made into the treatment of the children and state of buildings in all the industrial schools where there are children sent by the board; and that the inquiry in each case be made altogether independent of the industrial school inspectors." He said that after the romantic letter of the Home Secretary he thought it would be only right for the board to insist upon the inquiry, because then they would know the condition of the children in those schools which were under the supervision of the Home Department.—Mr. Hawk seconded the motion.—Miss Edith Simcox moved as an amendment that a deputation be appointed by the board to visit all the industrial schools where there are children sent by the board, and to report upon the treatment of the children, the state of the buildings, and the diet and clothing supplied.—Mr. Olding seconded the amendment.—Mr. Richardson does not think that the Home Secretary would follow in the wake of other persons, and would certainly not take up Mr. Murphy's leading. He should certainly oppose both the motion and the amendment.—Mrs. Surtees thought Mr. Murphy's amendment was rather late in the day.—Mr. Bonnell hoped that the board having sunk such a low depth would not sink lower still by making itself contemptible. He also hoped that the majority of the board would have the manliness to take without flinching the birching which was in store for them.—Mr. Murphy withdrew his motion, and the amendment was also withdrawn.

A warm discussion arose on the report of the special committee of inquiry into the condition of St. Paul's Industrial School being brought up. Objection was taken by the Rev. Mr. Coxhead and other members to a paragraph in the letter proposed to be forwarded to the Home Secretary, in which a hope is expressed that the Public Prosecutor would see his way to institute a prosecution. This, after the correspondence which had taken place, was regarded by many members as unnecessary and almost an impertinent recommendation. Eventually an amendment, proposed by Mr. H. Gover to roter the report back to the committee with an instruction to omit the clause objected to, was put and lost by a majority of 14 voting for and 13 against sending the report back.—Dr. Wainwright then moved the adjournment of the debate, which, on being put to the vote was lost by the Chairman's casting vote, 12 voting for and 13 against.—Mr. Lurcott then moved the adjournment of the debate which was carried by 14 to 12.

The strike in the Staffordshire pottery trade is assuming a somewhat serious aspect. Notwithstanding rumours of proposed settlements and of a partial or conditional settlement on the part of the employers, there is no sign of a settlement, and, as yet, any hopes of their giving way. It is freely stated, and as widely believed, that the largest employers of labour are so convinced that they ought not to give the advance, that they are prepared to sacrifice considerably, if need be, in resisting the demands of the men, whom they consider to be acting unreasonably in the extreme. There are those on both sides who would willingly fall in with some reasonable compromise by which the loss and suffering now being experienced might be averted, and a struggle fraught with injury to all concerned be determined. The printers and transferers were paid yesterday; above 100 had 2s. each, and about 250 only 1s. each; some refused the 1s. According to a subscription list, 438 odd had been received from the federation fund, 233 odd from the members, and 230 from the society fund. The printers get 2s. a-p.c. and transferers 1s. 6d. The Burslem, Tunstall, Hanley, Stoke, and Fenton—namely, above 400 printers and above 800 transferers—it is easy to understand how much has, on the whole, been dispensed of.

AN ARTFUL CONVICT.—On Sunday last a daring attempt to escape from Portland Prison was made by a convict under a long sentence of imprisonment. Late in the afternoon one of the patrol outside the prison noticed a number of small holes in the woodwork of the wall of the building, and his suspicions being aroused, he reported the matter to the deputy-governor, who visited the cell, and found that the convict had removed a portion of the sheet-iron wall of his cell, and had bored a number of gimlet holes in the wood, so that it could easily be removed, leaving an aperture large enough for him to get out of. How he possessed himself of the tools to do this without being discovered is a mystery.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.—A complete list of plans deposited in the Railway Department and the Harbour Department of the Board of Trade, in respect of which it is intended to apply for bills or for provisional orders in the next session of Parliament. The total number of bills is 206, as against 135 last year. Of these 135 are railway bills, some being for new railways or extensions, and others for additional powers, as against 87 last year; 26 are for construction of tramways, and seven for miscellaneous works. Twenty-nine plans have also been deposited with the Railway Department in respect of provisional orders for which applications will be made for the construction of tramways, seven in respect of extensions, and five in respect of water works, and in the Harbour Department 16 plans have been deposited in respect of pier and harbour works, making 41 applications for provisional orders, as against 76 last year.

MR. GOSCHEN AT RUGBY.

Mr. G. J. Goschen, M.P., was on Tuesday present at public meeting in the Town Hall at Rugby, and said that he had sometimes wondered whether it was not an old Rugby influence that he ought to trace the germ of a kind of fanaticism to which he was liable on the point of the maintenance of law and order, and constituted authority. Such a training was not antagonistic to decided Liberalism, the creed of English Liberals always including a belief in

A Strong Executive.

After commenting on the absence of knowledge on the part of the ratepayers of their local affairs, the right hon. gentleman said that no doubt here and there real interest might flourish; but in many parts of the country local life could not be said to exist. To create that life was not an unworthy task for the Liberal party. When new proposals should be made for the establishment of county boards, the question would arise whether the election to them should be direct. He was prepared to support her Majesty's Government in placing the new local franchise on a wide and popular basis—as broad, perhaps, as was proposed by many who could not comprehend his objection to the extension of the political suffrage. He wished to see the agricultural labourers endowed with the opportunity of taking a real part in local affairs, and he yielded to none in his desire to enlarge their interests and to educate them, as town ratepayers had been educated, for national work. He trusted that his zeal for

Local Government Reforms

in a most liberal sense might be taken as proof that he was not behind his party in his desire for the progressive development of public life amongst all classes. There was one form of activity which he feared was Utopian, but which, if practicable, would be of great civilising influence. Would that more power could be given to the parishioners to associate themselves with parish work and parish business connected with the Church and its services! The despotic sway of the parish incumbent was opposed to the spirit of the age and dangerous to the Church. A distinct and visible connection of the national element with the affairs of the Church would, on the contrary, strengthen the foundations of religion, soften sectarian distinctions, and open up a most ennobling interest in local life. All this, though possibly Utopian, had been brought within range of practical politics by a Bill introduced by Mr. Albert Grey for the creation of Parochial Councils. He believed the objects of such a measure could not be considered unworthy of reformers. Passing to the subject of rates, the right hon. gentleman said the consolidation of all rates into one was an admitted necessity, and ought at once to be carried out. He further recommended the division of rates between owners and occupiers, due regard being had to existing contracts. This was proposed in 1871; but the farmers at that time did not support it. The reason was they feared that a

Re-adjustment of Rates

between owners and occupiers might, under the circumstances of the time, have led to a re-adjustment of rents by which they would have been more losers than gainers. Since then circumstances have changed. The tenants themselves have now raised the question of a re-adjustment of rents, and if the division of rates was in itself expedient, now was the moment to carry it into effect. When charged to examine the matter ten years ago, he could not find that it was necessary to transfer a portion of the burdens of the land to other shoulders; but few, on the other hand, contended that the contribution of land towards Imperial and local taxes was not sufficient. If, then, it was equitable at that time, and if since then rents had been materially reduced, it was quite possible that a case for some relief might be established. As to the form of relief, he held that no further grants in aid should be made. It was a wasteful system, which must necessarily bring in its train that constant interference of the central government with local affairs which every friend of local self-government detested. If country gentlemen and farmers valued local independence, let them cast their influence on the side of other modes of relief than that of obtaining a certain number of thousands from the Exchequer under conditions of interference certain to make them chafe. One word on the subject of ownership and occupancy. The pressure of bad times revealed the weakest part of any bad system, and those who had seen the progress which had been made in public opinion on the subject of primogeniture, entail, and settlement, would be reminded that on this little more need be said. He took it for granted that no

Parliamentary Opportunity

was wanted for striking off the shackles of limited ownership, for enabling owners to deal freely with their land, and discouraging the obligation of an owner to stick to the land when he could not afford it. He wished to see land reform in order to secure greater benefits from land to the owners and occupiers and the public at large. If the coming changes should develop a peasant proprietorship side by side with other tenures, he should measure their advantages, not by the scale of productiveness, but by social advantages. As to the tenures of farmers, some time ago there was a great cry for leases, as a panacea for existing difficulties. Now they were out of favour. The tenants feared to commit themselves, and the landlords feared that leases would mean the security of the tenant against higher rent. He should himself be prepared to vote for a bill like that of Sir Thomas Acland's, making compensation for a certain class of improvements necessary, and even absolutely compulsory for the good cultivation of the farm. At the same time, he was not prepared to agree that the only satisfactory mode of securing that compensation was to give the tenant the right of free sale. He thought both landlord and tenant should be made secure; but that the latter should not be allowed to claim free sale. He believed that the time was peculiarly opportune for the introduction of some such measure, if in

The Present Irish Crisis

it was found possible to do any work at all. Unhappily, there was some cause for alarm. Week after week the forecasts of political meteorology announced the approach of another severe depression across the Irish Channel. The storm came was hoisted, and it seemed that at any moment the gale might freshen to a hurricane. He was told that in proportion as the storm seemed dangerous there was Ireland diminished, their hopes grew higher. He believed that this was a libel on a great party, and he did not believe that any body of Englishmen would wish to cross the floor of the House of Commons over the shattered hopes of conciliation in Ireland, or would wish to seize the Treasury Bench with the triumphant cry that England's final message of peace had been trodden in the dust. But whatever the Conservative party might think or do, he hoped the Liberals would not lose their nerve if the Irish voters in some English constituencies had sworn allegiance to the Irish irreconcilables. Whatever the consequences of the Irish vote might be, he believed that the Conservative party would refrain from anything that would injure the arm of the Government, the whole strength of which must be put forth in order to uphold the law. (Loud cheers.)

CETWAYO'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.—A Cape Town correspondent telegraphs that it is now definitely understood that Cetwayo will visit England in the spring. He will be accompanied by Mr. Henriquez Shepstone, who remains at the request of the Governor for the purpose mentioned.

AN ELOPEMENT IN INDIA.—The Indian Mirror states: One Mrs. Grant, wife of Major Grant, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, has eloped with her coachman. The lady is three-and-twenty, and her companion much about the same age, and is said to be "a good-looking man." The lady had been married five years, and has left two children behind her. She lately came into a considerable fortune, and Mrs. Grant was starting with the latter's brother (Mr. Littleton) at his residence, Trevor's Shevrick, whilst the two gentlemen were out enquiring.

SIR H. SELWIN-IBBETSON, M.P., AND MR. GORST, M.P.

Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, M.P., was present on Thursday at the annual luncheon in connection with the Hertfordshire Conservative Association, at Bishop's Stortford, and in proposing the toast of "Success to trade and agriculture," said never in the history of our country was the toast more necessary. Trade and agriculture were twin sisters in his opinion far too much divided, but he thought they now saw a little rift in the clouds. They saw the towns and the commercial interests awakening to the fact that the home trade was one of the most important we had to depend upon, and that there was more that affected them in agricultural depression than they had been willing to concede. He need not dwell on the facts which had led to that depression; and with regard to trade, when they looked at the almost utter loss of our ribbon trade at Coventry, at the depression of the worsted trade in the North, at the falling off in the iron trade, and at the way in which foreigners were competing successfully with us, could they wonder that men were beginning to review the history of our past legislation, and were asking themselves if, after all, there might not be something wrong in that great free trade which they had heard so much about? (Hear, hear.) Whatever might be the

Dogmatic Utterances of Mr. Bright.

However abusive he might be, for that he was—however he might call men idiots who reflected on those subjects—he could not prevent men considering what the utterances of the free trade prophet, Mr. Cobden, were. He would not prevent men reflecting that the free-traders of his day looked forward to universal free-trade—that they believed that they foresaw would come to pass—that all other countries would immediately follow in the new doctrine laid down, and he thought men might fairly hesitate, and say if the doctrine absolutely, that our exports would diminish while the exports of foreign countries which had retained protection increased every day, he doubted whether the first apostle of free-trade would have held the doctrine they had, and whether they might not have considered that, after all, their creed was rather difficult to carry out. (Hear, hear.) Might not the working-man, when he saw his employment steadily diminishing, and the foreigner gradually undermining him, feel that the state of the country which allowed such an excess of importation over exportation should be gravely weighed by politicians. (Hear, hear.) He could not help thinking that the artisan would soon be asking the question whether the cheap food which had been held out to him as

The Ultimate Result of Free-Trade

was an equivalent for the loss of wages which he had to bear, and for the loss of employment which was staring him in the face. He would soon be asking whether what he had to bear was right when he saw foreign tradesmen so much more successful under a different system. He believed that if a cry for change came, it would come from the artisans in towns, and that sooner or later, and he thought sooner they would be advocating a change in our commercial relations with foreign countries. (Cheers.) With regard to Ireland, were they satisfied with the changes the Government had proposed—the beneficent legislation—for the sister island? (No.) Were they satisfied that that change would work good—a change which they were told, was driving capital out of the country, and which had led to a vast increase in agrarian crime, notwithstanding the strongest coercion Act ever known was in force. Was it that settling of class against class in Ireland the remedy to which they ought to look for agricultural depression? He thought not. There were remedies to their hand far more likely to effect that object. They had

Local Burdens

pressing on the land, which ought to be spread more fairly over the whole country, and it was to remedies of that kind which would bring about a direct relief to the agricultural interest that they must look in the future. If they succeeded in getting a revision of the taxation and a hearty co-operation of landlord and tenant acting together for that purpose, they would have done much to solve the question of agricultural depression, and to bring "success to trade and agriculture." (Cheers.)

Mr. Gorst, M.P., who also spoke, expressed the firm determination of the Conservative party to resist any alteration of the rules of the House of Commons intended to stifle criticism and limit freedom of debate. Recalling the unpopularity of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Ayrton as members of the Liberal Administration of 1874, he predicted that by and by Sir W. Harcourt would be the most unpopular Minister that had ever held office, but he must be allowed time to develop himself. (Laughter.) Notwithstanding that Lord Hartington had admitted that the Government policy in Ireland was a complete failure, Mr. Gorst thought that it would not be until the Government had had time to take up English affairs, and to harness a few more talents on their old plans that the country would be moved to reverse the verdict of 1880. (Cheers.)

LORD CRANBROOK IN THE CITY.

The prizes gained by the students in connection with the City of London College classes for young men were distributed at the College in Leadenhall-street, on Tuesday night by Viscount Cranbrook, who referred with satisfaction to the proposal to build new War and Admiralty offices, and speaking of the special topic of education he denied that in these days the want of equality was the cause of any want of education. There were ample means of education, and plenty of openings below as well as above the middle classes. In his opinion the reason aspirants for position did not rise was simply a want of the necessary qualities. The independence and self-help of Englishmen was considered of greater value than the advantages supposed to be possessed by other countries, but whilst our advances in that which was material were stupendous, he impressed upon his hearers that no man could be the worse because he had cultivated his mind in other respects. Every educated man carried into life an influence which was constantly benefiting others as well as himself. Although it had been said that a little knowledge was a dangerous thing, that was only true when the knowledge was the little that was a great deal. (Laughter.) Let them get what knowledge they could, and recollect at the same time that they were on the sea shore of knowledge, and that there was much beyond their reach. Poetry, art, languages were referred to in each instance as instrumental in raising the student. But culture must be applied to the whole man, and it was to be hoped that home, which should be the centre of their affections, would not be forgotten.

CONSERVATISM IN MIDDLESEX.

The following is the result of the recent revision for the County of Middlesex.—Conservative objections on register made, 906; sustained, 850. Liberal objections, 691; sustained, 588. Conservative gain on objections, 262. Conservative claims made, 2,273; sustained, 1,620. Liberal claims, 1,225; sustained, 825. Conservative gain on claims, 778. Total Conservative gain, 1,948. The Conservatives also made 2,934 corrections on the register.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT A RAILWAY STATION.—On Wednesday night, a farmer and cattle-dealer, named John Nicholls, of Letterhall, near Wolverhampton, met with a terrible death at Dudley Port Station. He was returning from the cattle show at Birmingham, and sought to re-enter the train at Dudley Port, but was dragged under the wheels and fearfully crushed about the head and legs. He died instantly.

Instructions have been sent from the Foreign Office to the Admiral on the coast of Peru, as well as to her Majesty's Minister at Lima, to check as much as possible the kidnapping and shipment of Chinese coolies to the coast ports.

SHOCKING OUTRAGE.

At the Mansion House, two respectable-looking young men, named Thomas Torbeck and Caldwell William Clarke, were on Friday charged with having committed a criminal assault upon Susanah Tuerna; and a woman named Caroline Wymen was also placed in the dock, charged with aiding and abetting the two first-named prisoners to commit the felony of which they were accused. The prosecutrix in this case, who was stated to be a respectable married woman, was unable to attend in consequence of the injuries she had sustained, and the circumstances under which the offence was alleged to have been committed were of a very extraordinary character. The female prisoner lives with her husband in Worley-court, Minories, and the prosecutrix was stated to have been on friendly terms with her. On Thursday afternoon the prosecutrix went to visit the woman Wymen, and found the two male prisoners with her. They all had some drink, and after a time the female prisoner, it was alleged, went out of the room, leaving the two men inside, and locked the door. Immediately afterwards the prosecutrix in a most brutal manner. The prosecutrix, when she was allowed to depart, proceeded at once to the Great Tower-street police-station, where she informed Inspector Roe, who was on duty, what had taken place. She was in a shocking state; one of her eyes was blackened, and she was otherwise injured, and also gave directions for the apprehension of the prisoners, who were taken into custody shortly afterwards.—Dr. Sequiera, a medical gentleman practising in the Minories, described the condition of the prosecutrix. She was covered with bruises, and one of her eyes was very seriously injured. He had also, he said, no doubt that a criminal offence had very recently been committed upon the prosecutrix, and she was now lying in bed, and quite unable to attend and give evidence at present.—The Lord Mayor remanded the prisoners, and refused to take bail for their appearance at the next examination.

FIRES IN LONDON.

A serious fire broke out shortly before nine o'clock on Thursday morning, at No. 77, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway, inhabited by Messrs. Crisp and Co., linen-draper, and belonging to Mr. Hall, Cambridge-terrace, Holloway. The premises—Nos. 69, 71, 73, 75, and 81, Seven Sisters-road, all rented by Messrs. Crisp—experienced a narrow escape from burning, but, owing to prompt assistance, No. 77 only sustained severe damage. The property is insured.—Between seven and eight o'clock on the same evening an explosion occurred at No. 6, Acland-road, Notting-hill, occupied by Mr. R. Moss, as a private dwelling. The front room on the ground floor was slightly injured, and Richard Moss, aged 37 years, was severely burned on the face and hands. The explosion was occasioned through searching for an escape of gas with a light.—Later on, an outbreak of fire, for which no cause can be assigned, occurred in Edward's-yard, Chapel-place, Bermondsey, at Mr. W. Oldershaw's, a waste-paper dealer. The building, which is used as a store, was, together with the contents, seriously injured by fire, and a part of the roof destroyed. The building is insured.

SARAH BERNHARDT MOBBED.

A Paris correspondent telegraphed on Friday night:—"Particulars have been received here of the brutal demonstration made against Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt at Odessa on Nov. 25. It appears that during the day the gifted actress had received several warnings that something of an unusual character was about to occur. In consequence she deposited her diamonds in a place of safety, but took no other precaution. The performance that evening was as unsuccessful as ever, and when it was over a friend offered to accompany Mlle. Bernhardt to her hotel, and the carriage had proceeded some 200 yards without any interference. Suddenly, however, it was stopped by a furious mob, which cried, 'Down with the Jewess! Out with your money!' Stones were hurled at the vehicle, but the coachman, stimulated by the promise of a handsome tip, broke away and reached the hotel in safety. Here another crowd was gathered, and the attack recommenced with unabated vigour. Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt, with admirable presence of mind, opened the case containing the jewellery she had just worn, and flung the glittering toys among the people. A scurrying immediately ensued, and the actress and her companion, taking advantage of the lull, rushed into the hotel, the doors of which were at once closed. It was not a moment too soon, as while Mlle. Bernhardt lay fainting in the hall, the mob endeavoured to effect an entrance, shouting, 'Out with the Jewess! She has given us false diamonds. Out with her, or we shall smash everything!' The actress, who had quickly recovered from her swoon, laughed gaily, exclaiming, 'Do these gentry think that I am going to cast pearls before swine?' Quiet was not restored till past midnight, and a number of arrests were made. The troops occupied the houses of the wealthier Hebrews, to defend them from aggression, and patrols prowled the streets, inhabited by the Jews all through the night. Nevertheless, many excesses were committed, and several shops were wrecked, including that of Solomon Bernhardt, who was believed by the crowd to be a relative of the actress. Through the night Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt never closed her eyes, and in the morning she was found in such a state of nervous excitement that she could not utter a word."

AMENITIES OF LOCAL LEGISLATION.

At the Southwark Police-court on Friday, Mr. William Shepherd, a builder, carrying on business in the Bermondsey New-road, was summoned for assaulting Mr. Marcus Van Duren, hide and skin merchant, 41, Bermondsey-street, at a meeting of the Bermondsey Board of Directors and Governors.—Mr. Washington appeared for the complainant, and said his client and defendant were members of the same Board. Defendant was also a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works.—Complainant said he merely turned round to defendant and asked him to vote openly, when he jumped up and threatened to pull his nose. After the meeting, as he was leaving the room, defendant came up to him, and, making use of an insulting remark, struck him in the forehead, knocking his glasses off. He then told him he should summon him.—Mr. John Seer, another member of the Board, said he heard defendant say he would pull Mr. Van Duren's nose, and he also saw defendant strike the complainant on the head after the meeting was over.—Others members were called to give evidence, one of whom said he thought it was a bit of fun.—Mr. Bridge said he thought it was a very undignified proceeding, but he supposed they got rather excited.—The defendant said the complainant was always annoying him at their meetings. He said, although a foreigner, he could speak English better than the defendant, and during the division respecting the election of a clerk he insulted him about his vote to such an extent that he did tell him he should pull his nose if he did it again. (Laughter.) After the meeting he followed him up, when he (defendant) merely pushed him, and his glasses fell off.—Some witnesses were called in defence, when Mr. Bridge said it would be sufficient for him to call on the defendant to enter into his recognisances to keep the peace for six months.

THE POTTERS' STRIKE.

On Friday afternoon there was a large meeting of manufacturers at Hanley to consider the present aspect of the strike of operative potters in the district. Between 60 and 70 firms were represented. The meeting seemed more determined than ever to withstand the demands of the men, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting, having fully considered the various suggestions made in the press, pointing to a termination of the difficulty, is of opinion that in the present condition of the trade there is no solution except by the return of the men to work at the prices and on the conditions of last year."

GENERAL NEWS.

The Opening of Parliament.

The London Gazette of Tuesday last contains an official notification of the fact that both Houses of Parliament will meet for the dispatch of business on the 7th of February next.

The Bend Or Libel Case.

The case of Barrow v. Smith, in which the plaintiff obtained £1,750 damages in June last against the publisher of the Morning Post, for a libel reflecting on his management of the Duke of Westminster's Derby winner came on for hearing on Thursday in the Court of Exchequer, in the form of a rule for a new trial. Mr. Russell, Q.C., said Sir H. Giffard and he had agreed that the verdict should stand. He had named a sum for damages, and so had his learned friend, and they had agreed that Mr. Justice Field should name which of those sums the verdict should be entered for.

The Inflexible.

We are informed by the Secretary of the Admiralty that information has been received that the Inflexible, having been docked at Malta, has been taken over the measured mile there, realising a mean speed of 13½ knots, with a mean indicated horse-power of 7,871. Her greatest speed was 14½ knots, with horse-power of 8,098.

A Home Rule Lord Mayor.

At a special meeting of the Dublin Corporation on Thursday, Councillor Charles Dawson, M.P., a Home-ruler, was unanimously elected Lord Mayor for the ensuing year.

Lord Northbrook.

Lord Northbrook left his official residence at the Admiralty on Thursday for his country seat, Stratton Park, where he intends remaining until after Christmas.

Manufacturers Fined.

On Thursday, Messrs. Eccles, Holden, and Co., cotton manufacturers, Sudell Mills, Over-Darwen, were mulcted in a penalty of £31 9s. 6d. by the Darwen magistrates, for running their mill, and keeping workpeople employed, twelve minutes after half-past five o'clock, the time fixed for the mills to cease running by the Factory Act.

The Attempted Assassination in Russia.

On Thursday, a correspondent telegraphing from St. Petersburg says:—"In connection with the recent attempt to assassinate General Tcherévin, I am enabled to publish the following letter which was received a few days since through the post by the Prefect of Police:—"Excellency,—For a long time I have not slept, being tormented with strange and fearful visions. Every night Perokskaja and Jeliaboff come and sit beside my bed and imperiously command me to avenge them, and above all to kill the Minister Ignatieff and yourself, and I am firmly resolved to execute this mandate. I do it with regret, especially as concerns General Ignatieff, who is, in my opinion, on the right track, and who really does his best like the Narodniks (People's Party) to alleviate the lot of the people, and to render their life more endurable. But it must be. As to you, I don't know you, and feel consequently quite indifferent about killing you. I merely wish to warn you, so that it may not be said I acted treacherously." The writer, who is a medical student, has been arrested, and upon him were found a loaded revolver and a poignard. This shows there was an intention to take the life of both General Tcherévin and Count Ignatieff."

Attempted Wife Murder.

James Powles, a blacksmith, was, on Thursday, brought before the Monmouth magistrates charged with attempting to murder his wife by cutting her throat. The evidence went to show that, on the night in question, the prisoner, who was a man of very intemperate habits, threatened his wife with a carving-knife, but she got it from him and gave it into the care of a neighbour. She afterwards went in and undressed to go to bed, when Powles jumped out of bed and went to his vest pocket and took a pocket-knife, with which he severely gashed the woman's face and breast in attempting to cut her throat. The man then went back to bed, as if nothing had happened, and was there arrested.—He was committed for trial at the next assizes, bail being refused.

Munificent Charitable Bequests.

By the will of the late Mr. Charles Hodgson, who carried on business in Durham as an ironmonger, for some years, and who died at that place last week, a sum of £15,000 has been bequeathed to various local charities. The chief recipient is the Durham County Hospital, which receives a sum of £1,000, and among other recipients of handsome bequests are the Asylum for Idiots and the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

Instruction in Cookery.

On Thursday, the Liverpool Training School of Cookery, representing, however, the United Kingdom, had an interview with Earl Spencer at the Privy Council Office to ask the Government to give a grant in aid of cookery being taught throughout the country, and to allow cookery to take the place of other but more useless "class" subjects for which grants were now allowed. The plea urged was that knowledge of cookery would conduce to the comfort of men's homes and save much drunkenness, and the too frequent quarrels over cooked food between man and wife. Earl Spencer said it would produce a scare amongst both school teachers and the ratepayers if the suggestions made were adopted, but he promised to give consideration to the views of the deputation. In this view Mr. Mundella concurred.

The Reported Murder of Two Hundred Girls.

In reply to an enquiry by the Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society as to the truth of the narrative recently published by Reuters' agency under this head, the following letter from the Colonial Office has been received:—"Downing-street, Nov. 29, 1881.—Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd inst., calling attention to the report which appeared in the newspapers as to the murder of 200 young girls by the King of Ashantee. I am to acquaint you in reply that no information has reached this department beyond what has appeared in the newspapers, but that Sir S. Rowe was asked on the 18th instant to report whether he had reason to believe that there was any truth in the statement referred to.—I am, &c., R. H. MEADE."

THE ARTIFICIAL-FLOWER SHOW.—A most interesting and useful exhibition was opened on Thursday at the Town Hall, Kensington. It is a flower-show—of artificial flowers. These flowers are the work of the "London Flower Girl Brigade," a brigade got together by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, as one of the latest of her many untiring efforts for the good of the poor. It is a most praiseworthy attempt to obtain for poor girls a means of honest livelihood, and deserves all the support that can be given for it.

EMIGRATION TO CANADA.—We draw attention to the advertisement of the Canadian Government which appears in our columns. We have no wish to encourage emigration to one country more than to another, but the matter is a serious one to persons interested, and should be carefully considered and all possible information obtained before a decision is arrived at. The advantages offered by Canada to all classes are no doubt very great, and a perusal of the pamphlets issued by the Government will well repay those who are thinking of emigrating, whether they have made up their minds as to a destination or not. These pamphlets will have additional interest at the present time, because the Governor-General—the Marquis of Lorne—has recently passed over the magnificent prairies of Manitoba and the North-west; and the descriptions that have appeared in the Times, the Scotsman, and other papers, would seem to confirm the prophetic words that have been made from time to time as to the great future awaiting that country.

At the election of Mayor of Limerick for 1882, held on Thursday, a turbulent scene occurred in the council chamber. There were two candidates, Mr. Wallace Salitate and Mr. J. Conahan—two of the town councillors, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Ryan were assaulted by some of the crowd who filled the chamber. Notwithstanding a protest the election was proceeded with amid a scene of continued disorder and excitement. Mr. J. Conahan was elected mayor by 20 votes to 16.

Guildhall.

Marlborough-street.

A "LOB CRAWLER."—On Friday, a young man named Dupree was charged before Mr. Mansfield with going into a shop in Bond-street and attempting to steal a till.—Evidence having been given, Detective Lane, C. division, said he knew the prisoner as what was now termed a "lob crawler," but previously a "till sneak."—Mr. Mansfield sentenced the prisoner to three months' hard labour.

Clerkenwell.

A PAWBROKER FINED.—Frederick John Thompson, pawnbroker, of Roman-terrace, Roman-road, Barnsbury, was summoned by Inspector Wilkes, of the Y division, for having unlawfully failed to enter upon a certain pawn ticket issued by him to one Stevens, the full name and address of the pawnor, contrary to the Pawnbrokers' Act, 1872. There were six summonses in all against the defendant.—Mr. Attenborough, solicitor, attended for the defence, and having examined the ticket complained of by Inspector Wilkes, said the defendant would plead guilty. He had been in business for over fifteen years, and, having a large trade, he of necessity had to leave a great deal of the carrying out of the deals to his assistants. That the writing on the tickets produced was not so plain as it should be was owing to the hurry in which they had to be made out. The defendant was anxious to comply with every requirement of the Act of Parliament, and had given his assistants instructions to do so. But they and the defendant had been complimented by judges and magistrates, and had been rewarded for the aid they had given the police in detecting thieves. He had requested his assistants to be more careful in future in regard to their writing. Under the circumstances, he asked the magistrate to inflict a nominal penalty.—Inspector Wilkes said he had in his possession three tickets issued from the defendant's shop, which were quite as bad as those for which he had been summoned.—Mr. Barstow said as this was the first complaint he had heard against the defendant, he should not inflict the full penalty of £10 for each case, but would be content with ordering him to

Southwark.

Wandsworth.

MORE BAD MEAT.—On Tuesday, Parasho Whittaker, of Winstanley-road, Battersea, was summoned by Mr. Corsellis, clerk of the Wandsworth Board of Works for having twenty-four joints of unwholesome meat deposited on his premises, intended to be used for the manufacture of sausages, and being unfit for human food.—Mr. Corsellis having detailed the circumstances relative to the seizure of the meat, which was condemned by the magistrate, said it was a serious matter, as the health of poor persons would be affected by eating sausages of that kind.—Mr. Richards, the sanitary inspector, stated that on the 21st inst. he went to the defendant's house and asked to see the meat he had received from Kingston. He said he had some beef downstairs, sent to him from Kingston, to cut up into German sausages. Witness went down into the basement, where a sausage machine was kept, and found three tubs of pickle, one containing twenty-four joints of beef, which were covered with brine.—Mr. Joseph Williams, the medical officer of health for the Western Division, of Battersea, proved that the meat was proved and unfit for food.—Mr. Haynes called witnesses to prove that the meat did not belong to the defendant, who allowed it to be sent to his place to be cured by the machine.—Mr. Sheil said the Act was intended to meet such a case. It was a wonder that persons ate sausages after all these revelations.—Mr. Haynes said they were made up in a tasty manner.—(Laughter).—Mr. Sheil then imposed a penalty of £15, with 2s. costs.

Westminster.

THE EVILS OF BETTING.—On Thursday, Thomas George Hayles, 31 years of age, of 98, Walton-street, Chelsea, clerk in the receiver's department at the Post Office at South Kensington was charged with having stolen £27, the moneys of the Postmaster-General. — Mr. Edward Walter Smyth, Post Office receiver at the South Kensington office, said that on Friday last, while the prisoner was absent in the country, he found that a sum of £27 paid earlier that day as a deposit had been appropriated by the prisoner. The latter had been in the office about sixteen months, and when charged with the robbery admitted he had taken the money. — Detective-sergeant Standing said that the prisoner when arrested admitted receiving the money. The witness was searching the boxes in his room when the prisoner remarked, "It is no use searching my boxes; I have none of the money left. I lost it all on horse-racing." He added that he must have been mad to have done it. — The prisoner was remanded for a week.

Thames.

MISTAKEN CHARGE OF "SMASHING."—On Friday, Mary Ann Collins, a hard-working woman, was charged with uttering a counterfeit half-sovereign at the Three Tuns public-house. The prisoner entered the Three Tuns public-house on Thursday night, and was charged with uttering a counterfeit half-sovereign with another woman, and called for two-pennyworth of port wine. Henry Dudley, the barman, served her, and she put down half-a-sovereign in payment, but he thought it was bad, and took it to the manager, who was of the same opinion, and she was given into custody. The coin was proved to be genuine, and the manager advised the manager to dismiss the prisoner, or she would bring an action against him for false imprisonment. He discharged the prisoner, and ordered the half-sovereign to be at once handed to her.

Hammersmith.

A BEUTE.—On Friday, William James was brought up on a warrant charged with wilfully killing three Scotch collie puppies belonging to George Edward George, a ganger on the Hammerstead and City Railway.—The complainant said the prisoner had been working under him as a plate-layer. He kept the puppies with the mother on the railway near Portobello-bridge, Notting-hill, where he left them quite safe on Tuesday night. He was afterwards fetched out of bed and found them dead, the mother yelping and chained to the kennel.—Richard Williams, a watchman in the service of the Great Western Railway Company, deposed that on Tuesday night he was concealed behind a truck watching the hay, on account of recent fires. He saw a man come up the embankment and cross over the line towards the dogs, after looking up and down. He returned with something black in his hand and threw it down on the ballast by the side of the metals. Just before the train approached he picked it up and placed it across the metals. The train passed over it. The man returned to the kennel and put another black substance across the metals. He repeated this third time. The man ran away when he saw him. Witness called out, "What have you got for the dogs?" He made no reply, but looked round and they came face to face. He followed him over the signal wires, but he slipped and fell down the embankment. The man escaped, but he afterwards related out the prisoner as the man. He had no doubt that the prisoner was the man, as he knew him before. When he returned to the line he found one dog lying across the metals cut in two pieces, another dead beside on the ballast, and a third on the metals struggling, but it died soon afterwards.—The complainant was recalled, and said he had had not any quarrel with the prisoner, but on one occasion he stopped him from work by orders.—Mr. Paget convicted the prisoner, and said he had been guilty of an act of the most malicious and

Greenwich.

Highgate.

THE BUILDING ACT.—Mr. Alfred Wm. Price, builder, of New Southgate, appeared on Monday to answer an adjourned summons, charging him with having infringed the by-laws of the Hornsey Local Board of Health by erecting four dwelling-houses on the Archway-road Estate, Hornsey, with 9-inch external and party walls, instead of 13-inch ones.—Mr. Bennett, clerk of the office of Mr. Tatham, prosecuted; and Mr. Matthews, barrister, was for the defendant. The facts were admitted, but it was alleged that the houses were built in accordance with the plans passed by the Local Board. This, however, the surveyor proved was not the case, and it was then shown that the buildings were not commenced by the defendant, and that he had completed them in accordance with the plans handed to him by the first builder, which only showed 9-inch walls.—The Bench said they had nothing to do with that. The by-laws had been infringed, and the defendant was responsible.—Mr. Bennett, in answer to the Bench, said he believed the Local Board could compel the defendant to carry out the by-laws by making him pull down the walls, but he could not say that, as the whole question was at present under the consideration of the committee.—A fine of £2 10s., and costs, was imposed.

AFGHANISTAN.

A Blue-book was issued on Friday morning containing "further correspondence relating to the affairs of Afghanistan, including the transfer of the administration of Kandahar to Amir Abdul-Rahman Khan." The papers commence with a communication from the Government of India, dated January 12, relating the retirement to India of Wali Sher Ali Khan Kandahari. This was the Sirdar who was recognised as an independent ruler of the Kandahar province, but who lost his authority four months afterwards on the approach of Ayoub Khan. The who was not afterwards inclined to resume his title. The last paper is a summary of the Kandahar news, dated Quetta, July 16. These papers and letters are made up from the stories brought in by the British officials, and are interesting only in showing out of what loose materials much importance have to be gleaned. The most important portion of the book relates to the arrangements made for handing over Kandahar to the Amir Abdul-Rahman Khan. In a letter to the Viceroy, dated January 26, the Amir announces that he has deputed General Amir Ahman Khan to act as his agent with the Government of India, and he went on by saying:—"I am resolved upon two things from which I will never swerve. First, I will never undertake anything without the consent of the British Government; second, I will keep the British Government informed at all times of the state of affairs in Afghanistan, whether good or bad, exactly as it is without any addition or diminution." The arrangements concluded for securing the Khyber Pass are set forth; and the arrangement with Government, signed by the Khyber Afridis, is set forth at full length. By this the Afridis are held exclusively responsible for the safe management of the Khyber; and they are to receive certain allowances for the feeding and the clothing of the British troops when in the Pass, namely, a sum of 87,540 rupees, to be divided amongst the tribes, and a body of 1000 men is to be maintained at a cost to the British Government of 87,392 rupees. All the important posts are to be held by this force. Lord Hartington signified the concurrence of the Government with the arrangement made.

A BANKRUPT CONVICT.

In the London Court of Bankruptcy on Friday, there was held a meeting for public examination under the bankruptcy of Ledru Kollin Reynolds, who was described as of Strathden, Elsworth-road, Primrose-hill, secretary and manager of a company. The adjudication was made on September 24th, and at the first meeting proofs of debt for £5,600 were admitted. The bankrupt had been actively engaged in the promotion of banking and other companies, and in August last was arrested under criminal process, and afterwards sentenced to two years' hard labour.—Mr. Brandon appeared for the bankrupt, and said that he was in prison, and could be only seen occasionally in the presence of the officials. He was therefore not at present in a position to file the necessary accounts.—Mr. Strong, for the trustee, said that free access was allowed to the bankrupt in prison, and submitted that an adjournment of six weeks would be sufficient for the completion of the accounts. The Registrar said that if information was received from the bankrupt, there would be no difficulty in bringing him to the court under a process of escort for the purpose of being examined at a private sitting. An adjournment was then ordered for six weeks.

THE FULHAM SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

The further arguments in the case of Chambers and others v. the Metropolitan District Asylums Board, were resumed on Friday. It was an appeal by the defendants from an order of Justices Cave and Kay granting an injunction whereby the defendants were precluded from relieving patients resident from a distance of over a mile from the Fulham Small-pox Hospital until after the trial of the action in which the plaintiffs seek to recover damages for the injurious effect which the existence of such a hospital, which was alleged to be a nuisance, had upon their property as owners and lessees of the adjacent land and houses. Their lordships were unanimously of opinion that the decision of the Divisional Court granting the interim injunction should be made a condition that the plaintiffs would make no opposition to any application which might be made by the defendants to the High Court of Justice with a view to expedite the trial of the cause. The appeal was accordingly dismissed with costs, and the interim injunction therefore stands.

SHOOTING IN ST. GEORGE'S.—Timothy Shea, who was shot in the head by Henry Day, mate of the Suppisch, in the Blue Anchor, Cable-street, St. George's-in-the-East, is progressing favourably. On Thursday afternoon it was found necessary to remove one of his eyes, and shortly afterwards the bullet with which the wound was inflicted was found close to the cavity, it having thus remained in his head for nearly three weeks without being discovered.

A WOULD-BE LEFROY.—At Shornsea Police-court, on Thursday, Alfred Clarke and Alfred Levett, seamen, were charged with stealing a pair of boots. A constable was called to a public-house to apprehend the prisoners when Levett resisted, and said: "I'll murder you before I leave here. I have got something which will settle you." He then drew a clasp knife, and made several attempts to open it, observing, "Lefroy was hung this morning, and I will be hung for you." The policeman fortunately was able to prevent Levett from using the weapon, but the prisoner kicked him in a very vicious and savage way several times. Some persons who had been called upon to help in the arrest and had refused, stated that they kept away fearing that the prisoner intended to commit murder. With assistance, Levett was taken to the police-station. Both the prisoners were sentenced to fourteen days for the robbery, and for the assault Levett received the full term of six months' hard labour.

Members Harting, Sor, and Ellis, Lincoln's Inn-fields, state that they are authorised to state that there is no foundation for the reports which have been published to the effect that Cardinal Manning was actively engaged in London in endeavouring to prove that the success of the known as Mr. G. M. Weston's mission to the Congo was due to the fact that it was probable that the Pope would command Cardinal Manning to go to Rome in connection with the matter.

SENTENCE ON A RUSSIAN PRINCE.

The trial by Court-martial of Prince Schervashidze, son of a former chief of the Abkhazian tribes in the Caucasus, was concluded in St. Petersburg, on Wednesday night. The Prince, who is an officer of Hussars, was tried for indicting sword wounds on two civilian merchants who, in a state of exaltation, attempted to force their way into a room in a restaurant where the Prince and a party were sitting. One man died from his wounds, and his comrade received considerable injury. The Prince was found guilty, and in the first place was sentenced to deprivation of his rank and all other rights, and then to deportation to Archangel. In view, however, of extenuating circumstances, the court decided to petition the Emperor, through the Minister of War, to mitigate the sentence to three years in a fortress, with deprivation of rights. Several of the Grand Dukes attended the trial.

A RUSSIAN DETECTIVE.

A couple of years ago there was published at Geneva a volume of memoirs by a Russian spy, who took the name of Nicholas Zarouboff. He acknowledged in his preface that this was not his real name, and that he was a fugitive, having been unfortunately in the management of a delicate mission entrusted to him abroad, which made him fearful of returning to Russia. What this mission was he does not state; but from internal evidence in his writings it is easy to see that he did hold the confidential position which he alleges, and was at one time much trusted by the Russian Court. He accompanied the late Czar to London when his Majesty visited England after the Duke of Edinburgh's marriage in 1874, and he describes the extraordinary precautions taken by the Home Secretary and Colonel Henderson to protect the Czar against assassination. Zarouboff did not travel as a police-agent. He was supposed to be a gentleman of the suite, and accompanied the Emperor everywhere, even to the banquet in St. George's Hall, Windsor. At the Guildhall, when the Freedom of the City was presented to the Czar, Zarouboff had a great fright. He was standing close to the Emperor when he noticed among the newspaper-reporters a man whom he knew to be a Polish refugee. He stroked his left ear, which was a sign to the chief of the Russian detectives present to approach him, and in a few words he informed this official of his suspicions. The Russian slipped away and communicated with his English colleagues, who quickly got round the Pole. This man, all unconscious of the attention bestowed upon him, was quietly taking notes for a German paper. Presently he put his hand into a pocket and drew out a long leather tube. Before he could open it a jerk of his elbow caused it to fall out of his hand, and the London detective who picked it up pulled off the lid. It proved to be a common case for holding pens and pencils. The Pole saw, however, that he was under surveillance, and, growing very red, said he would not stay to be insulted. No opposition was made to his exit, but a detective followed him out of the Guildhall and offered him a word of friendly remonstrance against showing himself in the Czar's way. The Pole answered bitterly that he had more to fear from the Czar than the Czar from him; and he went off, after giving his card and convincing the emissary from Scotland-yard that he was an honourable man who had been wrongly suspected.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

THREATENED SUICIDE.

At Southwark Police-court, on Thursday, Henry Jones, 19, a ship's steward, was charged with attempting to shoot himself with a revolver, at No. 137, Alderminster-road, Brompton.—Mary Ann Curtis, residing with her husband at 127, Alderminster-road, said that the prisoner's mother had lodged in their house for some time. About a fortnight ago the prisoner returned from sea, and lodged with his mother and up to the present time conducted himself in a respectable manner. On the previous afternoon he came home apparently in a deponding state, saying that he had been disappointed of a ship. He sat at his mother's room. A moment or two afterwards she heard him call out, "Now, I will shoot myself with my revolver." Witness was in the kitchen and she was so frightened that she ran out of the house and fetched a constable, who then ran out a revolver handed to the latter.—The mother of the prisoner, a very respectable woman, said she was a ship's stewardess and was frequently at sea. Her son was a good lad, and was wrecked with the Matthew Curtis, and came home about a fortnight ago with the remainder of the shipwrecked crew. He had since been looking out for a berth and was promised one on Tuesday, but was disappointed. When he came home and told her, he took out his revolver and said, "I have half a mind to shoot myself." Witness took the revolver from him, and the constable entered the house and put him into his custody. She did not think he was intended to shoot himself.—The prisoner said that he was wrecked on board the Matthew Curtis on the African coast, when they were attacked by savages and compelled to take to the boats. He had the revolver with him at the time and had always kept it by him ever since. A week ago he was promised a berth on board a vessel about to sail in a day or two, and when he went on board on Wednesday, the steward intended to remain on the vessel, and he was not returned. He was so much disappointed, and on returning home said to his mother, "It is enough to make me shoot myself with my revolver," but he never intended to do so. He heretofore handed to the magistrate certificates of good character after serving which, Mr. Bridge allowed the young man to leave the court with his mother.

THROTTLING AN OLD MAN.

At the Thames Police-court, on Thursday, Joseph Harper, a builder, 92, Charles-street, Stepney, was summoned for assaulting David Lewis Marks, editor of the *Tower Hamlets Advertiser*, of 8, Canal-road, Mile-end, and Robert Edward Swyer, a medical man, living at 25, Mile-end-road, and John Smale, 22, Grafton-street, Mile-end, was summoned for assaulting Robert Swyer at the same time and place.—On the 22nd November a public meeting was held relative to certain abuses alleged to have been carried on recently at St. Paul's Industrial Schools. After a gentleman had been speaking on the platform, it came to a lady's turn to speak, but Marks handed up a piece of paper to the chairman proposing an amendment, and seeing, as he supposed, the chairman incline his head, he took it as a chance for him to speak and mounted the platform for that purpose. He was, however, objected to as being out of order, and an altercation ensued. Marks stated he was hustled off the platform, and pushed against Harper, who seized him by the throat, and several of that person's friends called out, "Turn him out." Dr. Swyer got up to second Mr. Marks, and alleged Smale pushed him by the throat from behind, forced his head under his arm, and dragged him the whole length of the platform. He exclaimed, "I am an old man; uncomfortable position he leaned against me; and it was some time before he could recover himself.—Several witnesses were called for the defence, and after Mr. Lushington had heard their evidence, he dismissed the summons against Harper, and fined Smale £5, or two months' imprisonment.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT NOTTINGHAM.—The Nottingham magistrates' clerk on Thursday received a communication from the Home Secretary granting permission for the exhumation of the body of the young man George Bennett, for medical examination, representations having been made to him that such exhumation was required for the purposes of justice. Since the inquest, at which a verdict of accidental death was returned, circumstances have transpired which have led to a strong belief that Bennett must have been foully murdered. The young man's body was exhumed from the grave at the York and Midland Railway early on the morning of the 15th ult., and at the coroner's inquiry evidence was given to the effect that Bennett on the previous night had left a train while on its way from Nottingham to Beeston, but it has since come to light that it was a young man named Sellin who jumped from the train in question, and that the body of the young man was not recovered. The circumstances of the case have led to the belief that the young man's body must have come to be lying on the line as it presently appeared in mystery.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone (the right rev. Dr. Cheetham) has accepted the vicarage of Rotherham, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. B. S. Darbyshire.

SKETCHED IN THE CITY.

GUINEA-PIGS.

The financial operation of "promoting" the Tuffenore Mining Company (an account of which I gave in my last sketch) had proved so profitable that I determined to try whether something more could not be accomplished in the same line of business. For this purpose I called upon my friend Mr. Heath at his office in the City, and asked him whether he could put me up to another investment of the same kind. "I have on hand," he replied, "an affair in which you could easily turn a few hundred pounds, and that without risking a five pound note. My friends Mr. Deafson and Mr. Billest, have, with myself, undertaken to bring out a new company. It is to be called 'The Patent Scythe and Sickle Company Limited.' It is started with the object of purchasing the patent of a newly-invented machine, which will save farmers and others at least two-thirds of what they now spend in cutting their hay and reaping their crops. We have got the money required for advertising the affair, all we require is a good board of directors. Now, if you can procure us a few guinea-pigs we are ready to give you an undertaking to the effect that for every really good name—every name that we believe to be sufficiently respectable for the direction—we will pay you £500 as soon as the shares are issued."

At first I could not for the life of me understand what Mr. Heath meant. Why he should want guinea-pigs; what those animals could possibly have to do with a joint stock company; or why he mixed them up with the board of directors of his company, were problems I could not solve. I suppose he saw by my countenance that I felt "mixed" on the subject, for he there and then volunteered the following information:—

"As you are new to the ways and language of the City, perhaps you don't know what I mean by guinea-pigs. A guinea pig is a gentleman with a respectable name—if he is a Lord, a Baronet, a Knight, an M.P., a General or a Colonel, so much the better, but we don't care to go lower than Colonel—who will join the board of a new company for the sake of the one or two guineas he may get each time the board meets." To this I replied that gentlemen to whom such a small sum was an object would most likely find some difficulty in qualifying themselves for the direction by purchasing a certain number of shares; for, as I had always understood, no one who did not own at least ten shares in a company could become director of the same. "Don't let that bother you," answered Mr. Heath; "we will do all the qualifying business for any good guinea pig you bring us." Was it lawful, I asked, for a director to have no shares save those that were given him? "We'll manage that," said Heath. "You bring us a guinea pig that we approve of, we can hand him a cheque for ten, twenty, or thirty shares. He will go into the next room, give over the cheque to our clerk, and be put down as having paid for the shares he asks for. Who is to ask where he got the money to take up these shares? Or let him give us the cheque for the amount, and we will hand him our private cheque for the same sum. Where there's a will there's a way; you may be sure of that." I left the office a wiser man than I entered it, and determined to do my best to make a little money out of this, to me, new scheme for earning something out of nothing.

The first person I applied to was a club acquaintance, a baronet, who, although he had a nominally good income, I knew to be a needy man. He was not upon the direction of any company. He had a good town address, and owned two very fine estates in different parts of the country. It is true that his house in Mayfair was invariably let, furnished, for the season; that one of his country houses was leased for a term of years to a wealthy Australian, and the other was shut up. But who was to know these details? The name of Sir James Lackland, Bart., 16, Lovian-street, Mayfair, and Courtly Hall, Stamfordshire, would look well on any board of directors. Sir James himself knew nothing whatever of business matters. He was a great hand at whist, and by no means unsuccessful with his "book" on the turf. At first he would not hear of joining any company. But when I explained to him that in a "limited" concern he would only be liable for the number of shares that stood in his name, and that these shares would be given him, his opinion was considerably changed. But still he held out. "If," said he, "my name is worth anything as a director, I ought to get something more than £100 a year for attending on board days—something tangible, in hard cash or the equivalent." And so I had to give in. I went back to Mr. Heath, told him my difficulty, and he "financed" (as he called it) the whole matter. If Sir James would allow his name to appear on the direction of the "Patent Scythe and Sickle Company," he was to receive, provided the concern floated, and when the shares were distributed, five hundred fully paid up shares of £1 each over and above the number that would be given him for the purpose of qualifying as a director. Of these five hundred shares I had to give one hundred out of those that were promised to me. Mr. Heath also gave a hundred out of his portion; and the other promoters subscribed the balance. And thus we got the first name for our board.

The next person I applied to, and asked to become a director, was an M.P., who had got into Parliament on condition of keeping the seat warm until the son and heir of a certain noble house should be old enough to come forward as a candidate for the honour of representing the place. Like Sir James Lackland, this gentleman was a needy, nay, a very needy man. How he struggled on in the world was a source of wonder to all who knew him. But his name looked well on the prospectus, and he would be a valuable "guinea-pig," partly because he was a Member of Parliament, and partly because he had in former years been a director on a certain County Bank of great respectability. When I showed Mr. Heath the name of Wilcome, Esq., M.P., late director of the Loanshine Bank, he was delighted; all the more so as we secured this gentleman very cheaply, only giving a couple of hundred shares beyond what he required to qualify for the direction. Having secured these two names—and so uncommonly well they looked when printed that the promoters of their own accord, volunteered to give me an extra five hundred shares for what I had done—the rest of my work was easy. The next preserve I beat up for my game was amongst retired officers and civil servants from India. They were easy to bag. A major-general, a colonel, and an ex-collector fell to my gun in little more than a week; and I could have had more if I wanted them, for one of these gentlemen always follow each other. And so "The Patent Scythe and Sickle Company Limited," was floated. My own share of the spoil for the five

directors I had collected, was two thousand five hundred fully paid up shares of £1 each; that, after deducting all expenses, and although I could not sell them for more than ten shillings each, left me a net profit of more than £1,000; and this for about a month's work, or little more. I, for one, therefore, have no reason to complain of the trade in "guinea-pigs."

M. L. M.

DIVORCE CASES.

In the Divorce Division of the High Court of Justice on Tuesday, before Sir R. J. Phillimore, the following cases were heard:—

ROSAM V. ROSAM.—This was a petition of the wife for a divorce by reason of the cruelty and adultery of her husband. Mr. Bayford appeared for the petitioner, and there was no defence. Mrs. Amy Rosam said that she was married to the respondent on Dec. 10, 1877, at St. Mark's, Surbiton. Her husband had frequently threatened her. In 1878 he left her, and since she had ascertained that he lived with a woman of the name of Sugden. Corroborative evidence was given, and his lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs.

BOOT V. BOOT AND EASTON.—The petitioner, a lace-maker, of Nottingham, married the respondent in 1863, and they afterwards lived at the house of Mr. Boot's mother-in-law. After some time a quarrel ensued, owing to the violence of the mother-in-law, and Mr. Boot left the house. His wife refused to accompany him. She made the acquaintance of the respondent, and evidence was given to the effect that he and Mrs. Boot lived together as man and wife at 22, Holland-street, Nottingham, a child subsequently being born, and the name of the mother being registered as Mrs. Easton by the respondent.—Sir R. J. Phillimore granted a decree nisi, with costs.

MARSON V. MARSON AND LAWRENCE.—Mr. Hodson appeared for the petitioner, and there was no defence. The petitioner, who belonged to the Royal Marines, married the respondent in 1863, at Ulverston. Shortly afterwards he was ordered abroad, and upon his return, he found out that his wife had been unfaithful. He, however, forgave her. In 1871 he was ordered to join the flying squadron, and when he came back to England he found out that his wife was living at Deal with the respondent, whereupon he instituted the present suit for a divorce. The case having been established, a decree nisi, with costs, was granted.

BRADLEY V. BRADLEY AND SLATER.—Mr. Bayford appeared for the petitioner, a labourer, who married the respondent in 1861, at Middlesbrough. The following year she left her husband, eloping with the co-respondent. Mr. Slater was prosecuted for taking away the petitioner's goods, and ultimately the respondent returned to cohabitation. After some time she again left her husband, and went to live with the co-respondent.—Sir R. J. Phillimore granted a decree nisi, with costs.

SAD SUICIDE BY DROWNING.

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest on Tuesday at Marylebone, on the body of Wm. Lea, aged 47, a step and ladder maker, of Willow-place, Kentish-town. From the evidence of the widow and others, it appeared that through ill-health he could only work occasionally at his trade. There were six children, and during his wife's confinement eight or nine months ago he was so ill he could not go to work, and they had to part with almost every vestige of furniture and clothing to sustain themselves and the children. He occasionally borrowed money of the foreman, who charged him three pence out of every shilling that he lent him for interest. This and his other distress seemed to depress him dreadfully, and he had once or twice remarked to his wife that he thought he would be better out of the way. On Monday morning he went out to work, but instead of doing so it would seem that he went straight to the canal and threw himself into the water near the north gate of the Regent's Park. When got out of the canal he was quite dead, and on a constable taking the body to the Marylebone workhouse it was refused admission, and he was told to take it to the mortuary, and on doing so its admission was refused there on the ground that it was not in a shell, and the vestry and sanitary authorities were represented as having ordered that no bodies should be deposited at the workhouse. On being searched an empty purse, nine duplicates, and a letter addressed to his wife, stating that the enormous percentage charged by the foreman (mentioning him by name) had caused him to come to this untimely end. He continued: "Much love, my good wife and mother. May God watch over and bless you and the dear children is the last wish. I hope God will have mercy on me, and all have a little pity, and not let all blame be on me." The jury, in returning a verdict of Suicide whilst of unsound mind, called upon the vestry and guardians to make better arrangements for the reception of bodies at the workhouse and mortuary.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

At the Marlborough-street Police-court, on Tuesday, Edward Hubby, an army pensioner, who gave no address, was charged with presenting and firing a loaded pistol at the head of Inspector Henry Richards, and Mr. Henry Crawley, of 17, St. James's-place; in the latter case the prisoner only presented the pistol.—Mr. Crawley said: I was coming out of the Army and Navy Club, when the prisoner came up and presented a pistol to me, saying nothing. The pistol was five yards off, and he then put it down again into his pocket and walked away. I spoke to the inspector, who seized him, and he then put the pistol in his pocket and walked away. On the way round I heard a cap explode, and on hearing a scuffle saw the inspector and the prisoner on the ground. The constable was trying to take something out of the prisoner's hand, and at the inspector's request I took the pistol out of the prisoner's hand and gave it to the constable.—Inspector Richards said: About twenty minutes past ten on Wednesday night, in consequence of a statement made by Mr. Crawley, I followed him a short distance along Pall-mall, and Mr. Crawley said, "That's him," and I took him into custody. He turned round, and deliberately aimed a pistol at me—the aim being directed towards my head, and prisoner not being more than two yards off. The cap exploded, but the pistol did not go off. I seized the prisoner by the neck and the hand in which he held the pistol, and threw him into a doorway. I asked him to give me the pistol and he refused, saying he meant to shoot me. Mr. Crawley took the pistol from him. On the way to the station he said he was sorry the charge did not go off properly. I said, "I don't see why you should want to shoot me," and he said, "I would just as soon you as anybody else." At the station I searched him, and found four bullets, some percussion caps, a discharge from the army, a pension paper, and also a paper which he alleges is a claim on the War Office for £57, which appears to be his grievance. The pistol was loaded with bullet and powder.—The prisoner said he never intended to injure any one, and had no witnesses.—Mr. Newton: Then you are committed for trial for attempting to commit wilful murder.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

At Birmingham, on Tuesday, inquests were held on the bodies of Ellen Jackson, a widow, and her daughter, Gertrude Amelia, aged nine years. The deceased woman lived with a married sister, who, on going upstairs to her bedroom on Sunday evening, found her in a dying condition, with her little son, aged seven, on her lap. The girl lay insensible on the landing, and the boy was crying, "Oh, mamma, don't you die." He told his aunt that his mother had given them both something nasty to drink out of a teneup. The woman was taken to a neighbouring chemist's shop, where she died almost immediately. The girl and boy were conveyed to the General Hospital, where the former died within an hour of her admission. The medical testimony showed that death, in both cases, had resulted from strychnine, and it appeared the deceased woman had frequently told her sister that she wished herself and children were out of the world.—The jury, in the case of the child, found a verdict of wilful murder against the mother, and that the latter committed suicide in a fit of temporary insanity. The little boy is recovering, and will soon be convalescent.

STATE OF IRELAND.

Lord Montague and his Tenants.

Lord Montague has offered his tenantry to take 50 per cent. of the rents now due by them, and make a reduction of 10 per cent. on further rents. His lordship has also stated that he will allow all leases granted on the estate to be avoided, so as to enable the tenants to seek the benefits of the Land Act, and have judicial rents fixed. A meeting of his tenantry was held at Shana-golden on Monday, when it was unanimously resolved not to accept the terms offered until Parnell, Davitt, Dillon, and the other political prisoners are unconditionally released.

A Priest and the Land League.

An extraordinary scene took place at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Kanturk, on Sunday last. The Rev. Canon Dennehy took occasion to denounce the Children's Land League, recently started in the town, saying children reared in such organisations became like the Reds of Paris, who had no religion and were never baptised. The rev. clergyman was proceeding farther in his denunciation, when a large body of the congregation jumped from their seats and walked out of the chapel. Much confusion prevailed, some persons invoking all to come out.

Murder in Down.

What is believed to be a deliberate murder took place on Monday night in the neighbourhood of Dromore, county Down. The body of a farmer named M'Cormick was found in a ditch bearing marks of violence. The base of the skull was fractured and the jaws broken. Inquiries were made, and a policeman, proceeding to Belfast, arrested a farmer named Hugh Hamilton, resident in the neighbourhood of Dromore, who had just taken a ticket by one of the cross channel steamers.

Mr. Parnell Interviewed.

Mr. O'Donnell, M.P., visited Kilmahon gaol on Monday, and had an interview with Mr. Parnell, Mr. Dillon, Mr. O'Kelly, and Dr. Kenny, and has been good enough to give us a brief narrative of the visit and his own impressions. Mr. O'Donnell came away with a strong feeling that the treatment inflicted upon the suspects is in complete violation of the pledges given to Parliament by the Government on the introduction of the Coercion Bill. The warders and officers appear to be courteous and attentive, and the multiplied vexations must be solely set down to the directions of the superior authorities. All the gentlemen visited by Mr. O'Donnell had the weary look of men whose health is being steadily undermined by close confinement, and serious want of exercise, but, under cover of the ordinary conversation permitted by the strict rules imposed by the Government, the sentiments of the distinguished prisoners were easily seen to be unchanged. Mr. Parnell is fully acquainted with the progress of events. Mr. O'Donnell inspected with curiosity the special hut built for the occupation of the two armed policemen who watch Mr. Parnell's cell window all night. As the bad weather and gloomy days continue, the darkness of the cells and the difficulty of taking exercise in such open air as is available will increase. It seems to be strange that the Government does not even employ reflectors which might lighten the darkness of the cells. When the prisoners are reduced to the prison fare, the coarseness of which is another violation of the pledges given to Parliament, the consequences may be exceedingly serious.

Extensive Evictions.

The evictions on Lord Bantyn's property, near Eyres, were commenced on Tuesday by the sub-sheriff of Cork, assisted by over a hundred policemen, under command of the stipendiary magistrate. Nine holdings were visited, and the occupants in each case were evicted, but allowed to re-enter as caretakers. The rent due was from two to three years, and the tenants promised in every instance to settle up the arrears within a fortnight. Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., accompanied the expedition, and entered most of the houses to see their condition.

Wholesale Discharge of Labourers.

Viscount Doneraile, on Tuesday, discharged every labourer in his employ at Doneraile. The men walked in a body into Butterant, where they had an interview with the clergyman. Lord Doneraile's action is attributed to the killing and mutilating of a large number of his sheep, as well as to the boycotting of the Duhallow Hunt Club.

Serious Riot in Limerick.

As a contingent of constabulary was returning from some evictions at Bruff, county Limerick, to Kilmacno, on Tuesday, they were attacked by a mob of people with stones. The police fired their weapons on their rifles, and charged the mob, scattering them in all directions. The latter, however, returned before they would finally disperse. The police did not fire, although they were in danger of serious injury from the missiles hurled at them.

A Man's Finger Blown Off.

William Sammon, who stated that he came from Leeds, was charged at Longford, on Tuesday, with firing at and wounding John M'Loughlin, a young man, on his way home from Longford. M'Loughlin had disposed of a load of hay, the price of which the prisoner demanded, and presented a pistol at M'Loughlin. The latter seized it, when prisoner fired, blowing off one of M'Loughlin's fingers. The prisoner was committed for trial.

Arrest of a Barrister.

On Tuesday, Mr. J. B. Killen, barrister-at-law, was arrested by two detective officers as he was entering the Mechanics' Institute, Abbey-street. The warrant charges him with being reasonably suspected of inciting people not to pay their rents. Mr. Killen was taken by the two o'clock train from Amiens-street, for Dundalk, where he is to be incarcerated. He was in charge of two detectives and four constables. Mr. Killen was arrested after the Irishman meeting, along with Messrs. Davitt, Brennan, and Daly, but their prosecution by the Crown fell through.

Release of a Suspect.

On Tuesday Mr. Michael Boyton, Land League organiser for Kildare, and who had been incarcerated since last March in Kilmahon as a political suspect, was released from that prison. Mr. Boyton, who is in very delicate health, was driven from Kilmahon in a carriage to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. He was the second suspect arrested after the passing of the Coercion Act.

THE LORD AND THE LADY.

Georgina Erskin Parkyn, now wife of a mining engineer at Roche, St. Austell, was charged at Bodmin, on Tuesday, with forging the name of Lord Archibald Douglas, of Harrow-road, Paddington, to an acceptance for £50. The charge was heard at her Majesty's prison, at Bodmin, the prisoner being already committed for trial on previous charges. Mr. Hawker, ironmonger, St. Austell, said the prisoner gave him the acceptance in payment for £15 worth of goods she had selected. The local bankers refused to cash it, and further inquiries were instituted.—Lord Archibald Douglas, by whom the bill purported to be accepted, said he had no knowledge of the accused, and that the signature was not in his handwriting. Replying to the prisoner, he said he had no recollection of ever having written her or of having correspondence with any one named Parkyn. The "Archibald" on the bill was exactly similar to his handwriting, but he did not understand how prisoner could have seen his signature. He had brothers—the eldest the Marquis of Queensberry—but the Christian name of neither was Archibald. His father's name was Archibald, but he died in 1856.—Prisoner put other questions, but elicited nothing to throw any light upon the matter. She asked for bail, and was offered two sureties of £150 each, but as she wants similar sureties for the previous charge on which she stands committed, she said it was no use her trying to get that amount in Cornwall. The prisoner, who is an accomplished and good-looking lady of about twenty-five apparently, is believed to be highly connected.

GRATIS TO ALL.—To Secure Health.—Send to JOHN BUCH MARTIN, 17, Newgate-street, London, W., for a 48 page pamphlet on "Curative Magnetism." Magnetism, by a gentle and almost imperceptible influence, removes every disease and restores the body, cures the blood, and imparts to the entire nervous system a vigorous and healthy tone.—(Advt.)

CHILD MURDER IN WILTS.

The young married woman, Ruth Bendall, late of Westbury, Wilts, charged with the murder of her infant child by drowning it at Whiteparish on Nov. 4, was on Monday taken before Mr. E. Hinman, and the Earl of Pembroke, at the County police-station, Salisbury. Mr. Jones, of Bradford and Trowbridge, was for the defence. The prisoner, who is a good-looking young woman, about 33 years of age, was assisted into the court by three female attendants, and being almost unable to stand, was provided with a chair during the hearing. She was in such a state of exhaustion that restoratives had to be frequently administered during the inquiry, which lasted nearly four hours, there being some twelve or thirteen witnesses to be examined. The first was Ann Bailey, of Westbury, who said the prisoner came to lodge with her towards the end of October. She was working for the Messrs. Laverton at Bitham Mills, and had a baby with her. She said she was in the habit of going home every week. On the Saturday before the date given she went away, taking the child with her, saying she was going to take it to a friend at Trowbridge, who had offered to take it for 3s. 6d. a week. Witness identified the clothing which had been found on the body. Prisoner returned on the following Wednesday without the child. In the interim it appeared she had been seen at Wilton, afterwards at Salisbury, and then at Whaddon, near Whiteparish, where the landlady of the Three Crowns gave her some food and a biscuit to the child. Later she was seen near the pond where the body of the child was found. On being charged with the crime, the prisoner attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into a neighbouring pond. Fortunately she was rescued, but in an almost lifeless condition. Mr. Ross, medical man, stated in cross-examination that the appearance of the child was incompatible with death from convulsions. The prisoner, it appeared, had been deserted by her husband, and her other children were in the workhouse. She was formally committed for trial at the next assizes.

STABBING CASE IN THE BOROUGH.

On Monday, at the Southwark Police-court, John Marney, 32, a ticket-of-leave man, described as a hawker of baked potatoes, was charged with stabbing John Kennedy and Ann Smith, in St. Stephen's-place, Tabard-street, Borough; also with stabbing John Smith, who was unable to leave Guy's Hospital.—John Kennedy, whose left shoulder was bandaged, said he knew the prisoner, who hawked baked potatoes. There had been a fight in St. Stephen's-place, but witness did not interfere. On Sunday morning he was sitting in his room, when he heard screams of murder outside, and on going out saw the prisoner with a knife in one hand and a chisel in the other, attacking Ann Smith, who lodged at the same house with her husband, and the prisoner did. While trying to protect her he was stabbed by the prisoner in the left shoulder, and was compelled to go to Guy's Hospital, where he found the husband of Mrs. Smith, severely stabbed.—In answer to Mr. Bridge, he said that Mrs. Smith was his sister, and had four children.—Ann Smith said she lodged with her husband and children in the same house as the prisoner. On Saturday night the prisoner was quarrelling with everyone in the place, and later in the night he held a child up and said to her husband, "I'll murder you before this night is out," and attacked him. She went to her husband's assistance, and the prisoner stabbed her. Before last witness came to her assistance her husband was taken to Guy's Hospital, where he now remained unable to leave his bed.—Police-constable 137 M said that shortly after one he was called to St. Stephen's-place, when he met Kennedy being taken to the hospital, bleeding from the left shoulder.—Mr. Bridge asked if anything was known of the prisoner.—The constable replied that he had been twice sentenced to penal servitude, and was liberated with a ticket-of-leave.—Mr. Bridge remanded him for the attendance of the surgeon and other evidence.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Monday, Henry Brooks surrendered to take his trial upon a charge of feloniously wounding James Durr, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. The circumstances under which this charge was preferred against the prisoner were of a very painful character. The prisoner, who appeared as a most respectable man, and against whom no charge was made upon any previous occasion being preferred, had had upon any previous occasion being preferred, on the night of the occurrence, and a quarrel took place between them, during which the prisoner received some slight wounds on the face, which were inflicted by the prisoner, and, as was alleged, with a knife. The prosecutor was severely cross-examined by the counsel for the prisoner, and he admitted that he had been on very intimate terms with the prisoner's wife, and that he was in the habit of walking about with her without the consent of the prisoner, who had frequently complained of this intimacy, and had entreated prosecutor not to continue it. The prosecutor also admitted that a very short time before the occurrence, he had been out all day with the prisoner's wife, drinking, but he denied that on the evening the assault was committed he had jeered the prisoner, and told him that he should go out with her whenever he pleased. The prosecutor further admitted that the prisoner had left one lodging with his wife, and that he went to the place to which they had removed, and renewed his intimacy with the prisoner's wife.—Mr. Frith, in addressing the jury for the prisoner, said that the case was one of a very distressing character. The prisoner had lived happily and in a good position until he became acquainted with the prosecutor, who had been the means of seducing his wife and breaking up his home, and reducing him to utter ruin. He had twice removed in order to get away from the prosecutor, but the latter persisted in keeping up the intimacy. On the evening in question the prosecutor only invited him, and in a moment of excitement the prisoner struck the prosecutor, and a fight ensued, but the prisoner denied most emphatically that any weapon was made use of by him.—The Recorder having summed up, the foreman of the jury in an emphatic tone said "We find the prisoner not guilty."

WHY BURN GAS?

CHAPPUIS' REFLECTORS

DIFFUSE DAYLIGHT

AND

SUPERSEDE GAS IN DAYTIME.

FACTORY: 69, FLEET-STREET.

N.B. PROSPECTUS SENT ON RECEIPT OF STAMPED ENVELOPE. ADDRESS (P) DEPARTMENT.

MUSIC.

I have heard with much gratification that a series of Sunday sacred concerts were commenced at Portsmouth on Sunday last. The performance was given at the Circus in the evening, and consisted of vocal and instrumental selections, the latter being executed by the band of the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Gounod were among the composers whose works were laid under contribution, and the programme began and ended with a hymn in which the audience joined. Further, we are told that the concerts are under the patronage of Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Admirals Ryder and Foley, and other distinguished officers; and that the vicar of Portsmouth, who delivered an address on the above occasion, strongly advocates similar means of popular recreation on Sundays.

Now this is the kind of entertainment for the Sabbath evening that ought to be adopted, not only in all the garrison towns in the kingdom, but in the metropolis, where it is perhaps needed most of all. In the summer-time, it is true, bands play in the Regent's and Victoria-parks in the afternoon, but in the winter their "dulcet strains" are never heard. Besides, what are a couple or even half-a-dozen bands for all London? Then again the extraordinary fact remains that, by the inexorable laws of these modern Medes and Persians, the Middlesex magistrates, it is illegal to open our concert-rooms and music-halls on Sundays except for the holding of religious services. There is no necessity to point out the want of good sense and liberal-minded legislation displayed in this restriction, which is unworthy of the great city that a few score old-fashioned justices are allowed to regulate in these matters. The egregious mistakes committed by the Middlesex magistrates demand immediate reform, and one of the very worst is their prevention—for it is nothing less—of indoor musical performances on Sunday.

But if London is to be behindhand in the adoption of Sunday music, there is no reason why the Portsmouth example should not be followed in every provincial town where there is a military, or volunteer, or any other kind of band to which the people like to listen. The cost of these concerts is very slight, and it can surely be defrayed either by collection or by the previous purchase of tickets during the week. If the expenses come to more than the receipts, private subscription among the wealthy townfolk should not fail to make up the deficiency. It requires no argument on my part to prove that a vast deal of good can be done by these entertainments, which are about the strongest counter-attraction to the public-house that could be devised. Those who have resided in garrison towns especially, know only too well that in the winter evenings, when it is too cold to remain in the open air, the soldiers throng to the drinking places and remain there for hours together, with results too familiar to need recapitulation. Therefore Portsmouth has done an excellent thing, and I trust that what is now a splendid exception in this country will speedily become an universal rule.

I have not taken the trouble to count up the number of times that Berlioz's "Faust" has been performed in London since Mr. Charles Hallé gave the first complete rendering of the work at St. James's Hall, but I am sure the total would be significant, not only as regards mere numbers, but as proof of the remarkable way in which English audiences take up that which hits their fancy. Judging by the crowd that again attended the repetition of last Saturday night, it would seem that Berlioz's *chef-d'œuvre* will continue to attract the public for a long while to come—at least when given with the perfect efficiency that characterises the performance which Mr. Hallé directs, and concerning which I have really nothing fresh to say. The same vocalists sang once more the music with which they have become, so to speak, identified, and the band again did thorough justice to a now familiar task. The delight of the audience was expressed in loud and frequent applause.

The Royal Society of Musicians were to give their annual performance of "The Messiah," on Friday, and I trust that the expectation held out of a large attendance was duly realised. The following artists promised their aid:—Miss Anna Williams, Miss Jessie Jones, Miss Hope Glenn, and Madame Patey; Mr. W. H. Cummings and Mr. William Shakespeare; Mr. Frederick King and Mr. Lewis Thomas, with a full orchestra and chorus, and Mr. W. G. Cousins, as conductor. I need scarcely explain that this excellent charity is instituted in aid of aged and indigent musicians. It is tolerably prosperous, but its scope might be advantageously widened by an increase of support.

The programme of last Monday's "Pops" included Beethoven's septet for stringed and wind instruments, a composition that seems to exercise a peculiar charm over the habits of these concerts. At any rate its performance always suffices to draw a crowded audience, and it is listened to with rapt attention and enjoyment. The septet was "led" by Herr Hollander, who had for collaborators, artists who, I fancy, have been associated with this composition at Mr. Chappell's concerts for years past. The other chief item of the evening's scheme was Mendelssohn's sonata in B flat, for pianoforte and cello, played by Signor Biatti, with that sterling English pianist, Miss Agnes Zimmermann. Next Monday night a couple of important novelties—one a quartet by an English composer—will be brought forward.

It is pleasant to see the names of English composers prominent in the programme of our most important musical institutions. It shows that native talent is not neglected when it is really worthy of display in the highest spheres of art. Amateurs will not fail to note that Professor Macfarren's fine oratorio, "St. John the Baptist," is underlined for performance at the next concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society, on Friday next.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne were expected at a gala concert to be given at the Royal Victoria Coffee Hall, on Thursday night, but a family bereavement prevented His Excellency from attending. A most attractive programme was compiled, and a long list of artists comprised, among others, Madame Marie Koze, Madame Nouver, Miss Agnes Larkroom, Miss Florence Vaud, Signor Rubini (great name), and Mr. Harrington Foote.

The Scotch concerts given at St. James's Hall in honour of St. Andrew's Day, under the direction of Mr. A. Austin, passed off in highly successful style. The hall was full in the afternoon, and crammed "from floor to ceiling" in the evening, both audiences being as enthusiastic and demonstrative as they usually are on these occasions. The artists whose names I gave last week appeared in due course, and their efforts seemed to afford unbounded delight, if applause and unlimited encores go for anything.

Mons. Charles Wehlé, a pianist hailing from Paris, gave a recital at the Marlborough Rooms, Regent-street, on Tuesday afternoon, assisted by Herr Stöcker, Herr Ondrick, and Miss Emma Allitsen. The programme consisted mainly of compositions from the pen of M. Wehlé, and some of them were liked extremely well.

The Grand International Concerts at the Westminster Aquarium, albeit still international in name alone, are so largely patronised that they are to be continued for another fortnight.

COUNTERPOINT.

It is stated that Sir Charles U. Aitchison, late Chief Commissioner of British Burma, has been selected to succeed Sir Robert E. Norton as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, when the appointment becomes vacant shortly. The appointment of Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab is worth about £10,000 per annum, with allowances.

THE THEATRES.

RE-OPENING OF THE HAYMARKET.

With the possession of a theatre so important and so time-honoured as the Haymarket, there has come to Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft the natural and laudable ambition to lift into a higher domain of art the company they originally assembled for the performance of the comedy of modern life. In pursuance of this aim they have received Tom Taylor's romantic drama, "Plot and Passion." That success will ultimately crown their efforts is scarcely to be doubted. A company including many admirable and highly-trained artists accustomed to work in unison, and directed by those who have proved themselves so competent trainers that to them is owing the commencement of the upward progress of histrionic art, cannot fail to fit itself for the performance of any class of drama whatever. That the first step was timid and insecure is almost a matter for congratulation. Nervousness is the almost inseparable adjunct of capacity as "bumpiness" is the almost invariable companion of incompetency. Nervousness alone interfered with the success of the first representation of "Plot and Passion," and by the time these lines are in the hands of my readers, what was weakest in the representation will already have disappeared. Although less than thirty years old—it was first produced at the Olympic, in October, 1853—"Plot and Passion" commences to look a little old-fashioned. Its dialogue has at least a certain flavour for which, thanks to the combined influences of realistic comedy and burlesque, the public has lost its taste. The fact that the play is one of the most popular at amateur entertainments has done little to remedy the effect of this, and portions of the work which at its first production stirred our fathers are now received with marked irreverence. Still the plot is ingenious, and the story is healthier than that of subsequent plays it has in part inspired. The woman who through her weakness becomes a police spy, and in that capacity allures to his destruction a youth whom her charms have fascinated, however distasteful and odious may be her profession, wins our sympathy and admiration when in the end she is purified by love and makes amends for her former availing herself of her infamy as is still within her power. Fouché, Duke of Otranto, the head of the Buonapartist police, is, perhaps, a lay figure rather than a very recognisable individual. Desmarests, however, his obsequious tool, nursing in his heart most vindictive purpose, and capable, amidst all his baseness, of the inspiration which springs from passion, is well conceived. Henri de Neuville is a fairly satisfactory *jeune premier*, and the Marquis de Cevennes is a true Marquis de Molière. To playgoers with memories which, like my own recollections, must be considered distant, these parts are associated with their first exponents. These included some of the most competent actors of the middle of the century. Mr. Alfred Wigan, who commenced with the production of "Plot and Passion" his first management, played Henri de Neuville. Emery, an excellent actor, whose disappearance from the London stage, long before his death, has always been to me a mystery, was an admirable Fouché, investing the part with as much individuality as it could well receive. Mrs. Sterling's vivacity and attractions rendered her thoroughly suited to Marie de Fontanges, a character imitated from, if not taken from, the repertoire of Scribe. The fame of all these characters is, however, swallowed up in that of the Desmarests of Robson. Desmarests was the first serious character assumed by that powerful actor during his West-end career. His previous performances had been in burlesque. Grotesque this assumption was, rough and uncouth. It was, however, lighted up by flashes of power almost livid, and it stamped the performer as a man of genius. To follow actors like these was naturally for the members of the Haymarket company a matter of some anxiety. I am not one of those who would ever allow the past to overshadow the present, and I acquit of all presumption those who don the armour of their predecessors. Nervous, however, the actors one and all seemed, and their nervousness interfered greatly with the success of their representation. Mr. Conway as De Neuville was the first to conquer his trepidation. In our younger school of actors Mr. Conway occupies a prominent place. His physical advantages have stood in his way, and it has become the custom to speak of him as good-looking and nothing more. Nothing could be much more unjust. Mr. Conway has had to conquer a *gaucherie* and *mauvaise honte* in the expression of passions which are thoroughly Britannie. In the end he has conquered them, and he is now a serviceable and good actor. His Henri de Neuville was graceful, bright and manly, and had flashes of true passion. His partner, Miss Ada Cavendish, a new and valuable acquisition to the theatre, scarcely overcame her tremors until the commencement of the third act. The chief advantage reaped in the early scenes was accordingly derived from her fine presence. In the later scenes she warmed to her work. Her old power then asserted itself, and the acting took a strong hold upon the public. A Marie de Fontanges better than Miss Cavendish was in the last act could scarcely be desired. Mr. Arthur Cecil's conception of Desmarests was fine, and his exposition was admirably thoughtful, as is every performance of a man who may claim to be one of the most intelligent and painstaking actors on the stage. Mr. Cecil departed from the Desmarests of his predecessor, and represented the character as willier, slimmer, and more feeble. With this I will not quarrel. I will only urge that the feebleness appeared at times excessive, and inspired some doubt as to the possibility of the man being possessed with a resolution so strong and a passion so over-mastering as are assigned him. Still, accepting, as I think we are bound, Mr. Cecil's reading, the performance was excellent. Mr. Bancroft's Fouché though an excellent piece of acting seemed a little too rigid. His character, however, is not really effective, and one can scarcely see what Mr. Bancroft could have done to assign it more individuality than it exhibited. It was distinctly picturesque and fairly insupportable. More it could not easily be. Mr. Pinner, a recruit to the theatre, is a genuine comedian, and his Marquis de Cevennes was thoroughly comic. Mr. Teasdale, as Berthier, had little to do. Mr. Stewart Dawson was a good Grishouille, and Miss Ada Wilton as Cecile, and Mr. Dean as Jabot, completed a judiciously selected cast. The dresses, designed by the Hon. Lewis Wingfield, were in excellent taste, and were exact reproductions of existing pictures. The mounting of the whole left nothing to be desired.

Following "Plot and Passion" came "A Lesson," a piece founded by Mr. Burnand upon the "Lolotte" of M. Meilhac and Halévy. A brighter cheerier, and it must be added a more successful little piece has seldom been put upon the stage. Mr. Burnand has been compelled to depart widely from the original. In place of the vulgar actress whose distinguished airs are all simulated, and who on provocation is ready with a vocabulary worthy of "La Fille du Marquis," Mr. Burnand has had to show a woman who is serious in pursuit of her art, who is dignified in rebuke of a too volatile husband, and who never for a moment forgets what is due to her. All the advantage of the contrast between the heroine as she is first seen and as she subsequently appears, which was admirably effective in the rendering of Mme. Chaumont, have to be foregone. It is highly creditable that so much should be retained or added when this is withdrawn, and that the whole should have so much vivacity. The dialogue is, however, exceptionally happy, and the piece goes brilliantly. Its story shows an actress coming to a lady of some slight social position how to act two parts in amateur theatricals. When thus occupied, she discovers that her husband, to whom she is secretly married, is making love to her hostess, and she turns upon the pair and rebukes them with the impropriety of their conduct. Her arraignment is overheard by the husband of the lady, who arrives unperceived, and the actress then by a rehearsal. How admirable is a part like this, an actress so dainty and a comedian so finished as Mrs. Bancroft can be, is at once obvious. Her performance was indeed delightful. A treat of the highest order was, however, provided, a portion of the

audience who saw Mrs. Bancroft repeat those bewitching airs which made her at one time the most graceful and popular of actresses in burlesque. A song and dance, such as the world used to see with delight in "The Maid and the Magpie" were given, and were rapturously enjoyed. In Kate Reeve, Mrs. Bancroft enriches her repertoire with a thoroughly novel and delightful character. Miss B. Henri gave a perfect representation of the pupil, Mr. Conway was satisfactory in the not-too-agreeable rôle of the husband of the actress, and Mr. Brookfield gave a capital study of a prudent Scotch knight who knows little of the stage, but was not adverse to the society of actresses.

VAUDEVILLE.

Important alterations have been made in Mr. Sims's comedy of "The Half-way House" which has now been played for between fifty and sixty nights at the Vaudeville. So judicious have these been, that the play, which now proceeds with unsurpassable briskness, and to the accompaniment of a constant roar of laughter, is scarcely recognisable as the same that was previously heard. For the improvement, a slight alteration in the cast and the increased vivacity that comes of familiarity, are in part responsible. Still the alterations and compression that have been excited must count for much, and the result is that "The Half-way House" may claim to be one of the briskest comedies of modern days. Scarcely a part is there that is not acted to perfection. Mr. Thorne's John Hope is a model of quiet good sense and good nature, with a slight infusion of vulgarity. Mr. Farren's Squire Hesselton is delightful in the assumption of dare-devilry and the revelation of underlying weakness. Mr. Lestock's picture of the sentimental broker's man is capital. Miss Kate Phillips is the briskest and sanest of barmaids, and Miss Alma Murray is unsurpassable in gentleness and pathos as the heroine. Not less excellent are Mrs. Cammings, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy affords an instance of admirably artistic conscientiousness, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Graham, Mr. Crauford, and other members of the company.

Two novelties have been added to the programme. "Marriage Bells" is an agreeable comedietta, by Mr. Herbert Gough. Percy Waldron loves Jessie Falkner, and is beloved by her. So unpropitious is his wooing in consequence of the disbeliefs in masculine protestations of Mrs. Falkner, he brings Colonel Beville, in whose regiment he is, to plead for him. In the colonel, Mrs. Falkner recognises the man whose falsehood has blighted her life. Explanations ensue, and the two elders finding they have been separated by treachery, and by no fault of their own beyond a little rashness, resolve to make up with their youngsters a nuptial quartet. Not very original is this piece, but it is sympathetic. Miss Alma Murray played Mrs. Falkner in charming style. The other parts were well rendered by Miss Ella Strathmore, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Crauford. Very different in character was the piece with which the entertainment concluded. "The Girl who Left Behind Him" is announced as a "variety" from the French by Delacour Daubigny, with music by Herr Schroeter. It is, in fact, an admirably "rough-and-tumble farce." Tom Tarpaulin, a sailor, of the cheeriest but most impatient, not to say vindictive disposition, returns after a two years cruise on the very day in which his sweetheart pretty Polly has espoused Peter Popcorn, a miller. Frightened out of her wits at the thought of the calamities that are safe to spring from the violence of her sited lover, Polly changes places with the bridemaid, Sarah Ann, who consents for a time to personate Mrs. Popcorn. Before our amorous sailor has discovered that he really loves Sarah Ann best, some admirably comic scenes have been reached and there has been a general scrimmage. This piece showed Mr. Thorne for the first time, recently, in a low comedy part. As Peter Popcorn, Mr. Thorne was thoroughly diverting, his comic perplexities drawing down roars of laughter. Miss Kate Phillips was highly piquante as Polly, and Mr. Crauford nausignally violent as the sailor. The whole piece was received with favour, the songs were cheered, and the whole proved a decided success. A programme brighter and more varied than it now possesses, the Vaudeville has seldom seen.

COURT.

Mr. Gilbert's three-act comedy of "Engaged" has been revived at the Court Theatre. Of a whole series of brilliant and fanciful works with which Mr. Gilbert has enriched the modern stage this is the most original and in some respects the best. Altogether unique is it in modern literature, seeing that of the ten characters it presents there is not one who puts in the slightest claim to sympathy. At a Walpurgis night revel you could scarcely expect to see a more complete absence of all pretence at virtue. The characters one and all are under the influences of a species of inebriation which removes the guards from their conduct and shows their natures in their extreme ugliness. So exquisite is, however, the skill of the workman the whole is thoroughly mirthful and is free from the pain to the spectator an exhibition of this kind might be supposed to involve. Thoroughly to enjoy work of this class the playgoer must allow the dramatist fair play. Unreasonably and unquestionably he must accept the topsy-turvy world of the author presents. That the general public is able to do this with as much comfort as the select few shows how competent is Mr. Gilbert's workmanship. At its first production at the Haymarket in October, 1877, "Engaged" took strongest hold upon the public. When now revived at the Court the piece has lost none of its former power, and the public received it with shouts and screams of applause. It is not easy to imagine a programme more satisfactory than that now supplied. Many of the original exponents take once more the characters they created. Miss Marion Terry thus re-appears as Belinda Treherne, the young lady whose passionate devotion is accompanied by so keen an eye to the main chance. Her performance of this character remains as it previously was—perfect. Mr. Kyrie Bellows is once more melodramatically faithful as Belvairey. Miss Thorne, who gives once more a life-like presentation of the Widow Macfarlane. Among the new comers the place of honour belongs to Mr. H. J. Bryon, who takes George Honey's rôle of Cheviot Hill, and acts it excellently. There is none of the accentuation which in Honey's clever performance took the character quite out of the picture; all, on the contrary, is quiet, natural, and effective. Mr. Clifford Cooper is everything that could be desired as Mr. Symington, except, perhaps, that he does not look quite so fond of brandy and billiards as his daughter suggests he is. Miss Carlotta Addison replaces Miss Lucy Dakstone as Minnie Symington, and acts with her old grace and with a full realisation of the significance of the character. As the Scotch lassie Miss Menner is as good as her predecessor, which is giving her signal praise. Mr. Denry assigns a good deal of character (and character, of course) to Angus Macfarlane. Mr. Trent is the free-wheeling Major, and Miss Meredith is Parker. The whole performance went with unsurpassable spirit.

Before "Engaged" was played, Mr. John Clayton appeared in his original character of Victor Tremaine in "Awaking." Mr. Campbell Clarke's version of "Mareel." In this piece he plays a father who has accidentally shot his infant son. During four years he is apparently dead beyond all hope. A clever physician, however, tries a remedy which consists in bringing him to his old home, surrounding him with old associations, and in the end persuading him during a brief period of respite that his deed is but the outcome of a fevered dream. The character is one of the best in Mr. Clayton's repertoire. It is difficult to imagine a performance more earnest, more powerful, and more intellectual than Mr. Clayton supplies each quick succeeding phase of emotion were shown with admirable skill, and the whole impersonation was pitilessly worthy. Good support was afforded. Miss Helene Stoeppel was admirably pathetic as the wife, and Mr. Frank Cooper as the brother of the hero. Mr. Clifford Cooper as the physician, and Miss B. Herbert, as a waiting maid, were seen to advantage. The Court can now claim a programme that cannot be other than attractive and successful.

M. Marius has taken the Avenue Theatre, and will make his first appearance there during the coming spring, unless, as there is some reason to fear, the house

is pulled down to make room for the enlargement of the Charing Cross Railway Station.

An amateur performance will be given on Saturday, the 10th December, at the St. George's Hall, in aid of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital. Mrs. Lennox Browne and the members of the Philanthropic Club will then appear in "Still Waters Run Deep" and "A Lucky Escape."

Signor Orsini, the composer of the successful comic opera, "Lola," has finished the second act of a new comic opera, the plot of which is by Mr. Gilbert Abbot a Beckett, and the words by Mr. F. A. Marshall. This is good news for the lovers of bright music and clever dialogue.

DORIMONT.

The selection of Scottish ballads and music given at the minor St. James's Hall on Wednesday, was so much relished by the audiences as to justify Messrs. Moore and Burgess in undertaking to repeat it.

A so-called "grand wedding exhibition" has been commenced at the Westminster Aquarium, and will remain open till the 17th inst. The exhibition, which range from a bride-cake to a bicycle, and includes ladies' dress and all kinds of household furniture, &c., will interest the visitor from the country more than the town resident.

The annual concert in aid of the Clerkenwell Benevolent Society, which took place at St. Mary's Hall, Islington, on Monday evening, gave general satisfaction. The vocalists were Messrs. Davies, Thornycroft, Orridge, and Maclean, Messrs. Guy, Shakespeare, and King. The principal instrumentalists were Messrs. Reynolds, Wilcocke, Barrow, and Parker. Mr. Collings conducted.

The proprietors of the London Music Halls announce special attractions for what is termed Cattle Show week. At the London Pavilion two of the chief items are the operatic ballads by Miss Russell, and the musket and bayonet performances of Major Burke. The company at the Oxford includes Messrs. Arthur Roberts and Chirgwin. Messrs. Coorder and Payne produce an amusing sporting sketch in which a well-known jockey is caricatured. For the Cambridge, Mr. W. Riley has engaged Messrs. G. A. Vance and W. Barrett. At the Sun, Mr. Willis announces a new magical sketch. For the Metropolitan Mr. Lake has secured the services of Mr. W. Randall and the sisters Randall. At the Bedford, the sisters Leamar and a female bicyclist have been engaged by Mr. Fredricks. At the Royal, Mr. Parkins announces the production of a "new aerial burlesque." At the South London, Mr. Poole's novelty is an interesting performance, in which a dog, a pigeon, and a bear take part. For the Middlesex, Mr. Graydon has secured the services of Mr. Herbert Campbell and other star artists. At the Marylebone, Mr. Botting announces new comedy sketches, as does also Mr. Seward at the Foresters.

An American version of the "Peep o' Day" has been represented at New Sadler's Wells Theatre; while at the Pavilion Theatre the run of "Amy Robsart" has been prolonged.

Mr. E. W. Mackney met with an accident on Tuesday, resulting in the fracture of his collar-bone.

It is rumoured that Mr. Barnum is about to pay another visit to England, this time with a show.

THE RECENT GALE.

A telegram from Castletown, Berehaven, on Monday, says the reported catastrophe to the lighthouse on the Calf Rock, north-west of Bantry Bay, is true. The greater portion of the tower has been carried away. Five men, who were on the rock on duty, were seen by the coastguards. Her Majesty's ship Salam was sent to the scene of the disaster to render assistance, and was signalled by the survivors by means of the signal code, but, the sea being so rough, no assistance could be rendered, and the vessel had to return to Bantry Bay.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

Captain Fritz, of the British barque Lord Hood, from Belfast, states that five seamen were lost in an endeavour to save life. On October 20, the Lord Hood fell in with the barqueentine Bend Or, from Liverpool for St. Johns, Newfoundland, which was in a sinking state. Five of the Lord Hood's crew volunteered to man a boat for the rescue. These were George W. Jones, second mate, St. John, New Brunswick; John Smith and George Russell, seamen, Liverpool; P. Eugene, Havre; and John Hamilton, seaman, Belfast. The boat was launched, but a sudden squall arising, it sank, and the men were drowned. Heavy weather was subsequently encountered, and the wreck was lost sight of for three days. Then the only workable boat of the Lord Hood, manned by the mate and two men, proceeded to the wreck, and in two journeys, and at imminent peril, rescued the crew. The German barque Rudolph, from Antwerp, reached New York on the same day as the Lord Hood, with the rescued crew of the British barque Hattie. Mr. from Dublin for St. Johns, New Brunswick. After leaving Dublin, two stowaways were discovered. Both were subsequently washed overboard. Soon after, the barque was thrown on her beam-ends, and one of the crew was crushed to death by falling spars. The seamen were making a clean breach over the vessel, and the survivors of the crew were compelled to cling to what rigging remained. In that condition the vessel was fallen in with on the 22nd by the Rudolph, when the crew were rescued.—The Anchor Line mail steamer Victoria, Captain Murray, from London for New York, with 419 passengers and a crew of 60, was in great danger for a long time. Commander Cheyne, who was a passenger on board the vessel, states that on the 9th inst. the Victoria, during a severe gale, shipped a tremendous sea, amidships, which smashed a lifeboat, carried away the donkey funnel, ice-box, starboard bridge, and ventilators. Sixteen men were on the main-boom reeling the sail, when the sea dashed the boom to leeward, breaking it, and taking overboard the boatman and two seamen. The Victoria was hoisted, and the crew were mustered. The vessel remained hoisted for 24 hours. In the afternoon a message was received in the saloon by Commander Cheyne to the effect that Captain Murray would like to see some nautical man on the bridge. Commander Cheyne repaired the bridge, and was informed by Captain Murray that the Victoria was in a very critical condition, and he was done that was at all possible in order to provide for their safety. This Commander Cheyne did; "but," remarks Commander Cheyne, "knowing the reality of the danger and that if anything should happen to stop the engines the Victoria would inevitably fall into the trough of the sea and founder, with all hands, I wanted the ladies to remain for the night in the saloon, which suggestion was responded to by all. The behaviour of the passengers was admirable. A quiet resignation to a seemingly inevitable fate reigned supreme. The Rev. J. Evans, a Baptist minister, who had on board with him his wife and seven children, quietly told me he should collect his family circle around him and clasp as many as he might be able to when the fatal crash came." The hurricane suddenly subsided on the morning of the 10th.

On Tuesday afternoon a distressing occurrence took place in the house of Mr. Ross, farmer, Aberchirder, Banffshire. Helen Boyd, 16 years of age, was engaged dusting a room, when she accidentally knocked down a double-barrelled gun which had been carelessly left in the apartment loaded. The weapon went off and the contents lodged in the left breast of the young woman, causing instant death.

On Tuesday morning a collision, which, it is feared has been attended with loss of life, occurred near Graves end, between the steam yacht Quenec, belonging to Mr. F. Thompson, of Brookwood, Hants, and the Australian clipper, Dundee. The Quenec sank, and the captain, who swam to the shore, states that seven persons were on board when the yacht went down, who, it is feared, were drowned in the panic which ensued when the collision happened. Mr. Gordon, of Elgin, was, however, saved.

whole matter set on a better footing. But meanwhile, if these sentences are carried out, the bulk of Englishmen of all parties will feel that justice has not been done.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S.
NOW added to the Chamber of Horrors, a PORTRAIT MODE
GUILTEAU, the Assassin of the lamented President Garfield.

Post Office Orders should be made payable a
Strand Branch Office, to ERNEST MADDICK.
Cheques to be crossed "LONDON AND COUNTY
Not NEGOTIABLE"

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, at Derby, was less outspoken than Lord HASTINGTON, but what he said really amounts to much the same thing. In order to show that the Government did not foster the Land League and encourage agrarian agitation he thinks it sufficient to state the fact that the Land League was founded during the administration of Lord BEACONSFIELD. Why, of course it was, and it was just one of those elements of danger which Lord BEACONSFIELD pointed to in his manifesto. What answer is this to the charge that the Liberal Government, in spite of the warning, encouraged the growth of disaffection by taking no steps to repress it, and allowing the measures taken by the predecessors to lapse? "But," says Sir WILLIAM, "Why did not the Tories put the League down? They had the Peace Preservation Act—why did they not nip the evil in the bud? They commenced a prosecution which they did not go on with—that is what they call putting the League down." Let Mr. FORSTER himself answer the question. On January 6th, in the present year, the Irish Secretary, speaking of the months of March, April, and May, 1880, stated in the House of Commons that the Government then just installed in office found outrages in Ireland diminishing. This was the simple fact, vouched for by the authority whom Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT would hardly endeavour to discredit. Outrages in Ireland were diminishing in consequence of the measures adopted by the Conservative Government, and although there was serious ground for apprehension if the policy of the Government were altered, there was then no need for any coercion stronger than that of the Peace Preservation Act. So completely indeed, had the policy of Lord BEACONSFIELD been successful, that Mr. FORSTER, on May 20, 1880, was able to say with regard to allowing the Act to lapse "In [coming to the conclusion that we could do without exceptional legislation, it was with a full sense of our responsibility." Does Sir WILLIAM want any further answer?

As to the minor prophets of the party, Mr. GOSCHEN and Sir WILFRID LAWSON, who have also enlightened us on Irish affairs during

Bribery and corruption are equally odious by whatever party they may be employed, and it is impossible not to rejoice that those guilty of such practices should meet with condign punishment, whether Radical or Tory, Conservative or Whig. At the same time it certainly seems that hard measure has been meted out to the delinquents sentenced on Tuesday by Mr. Justice DENMAN. Messrs. MAY and MAIR, solicitors of Macclesfield have been sentenced to nine months imprisonment as ordinary misdemeanants: Messrs. EDWARDS and OLDS, the one a solicitor and the other a town councillor of Deal, to six months, while three publicans and three boatmen have been condemned the former to three months and the latter to two months imprisonment. Now, if bribery were in the eyes of society generally a crime as heinous as it is in the eyes of the law—if all who committed the crime were exposed to equal chances of detection—if the punishment ordinarily allotted were imprisonment of the offender as an ordinary misdemeanor—if there were no means by which punishment for the crime could in almost every case be avoided—if, in short, sentences of the kind were usual in the ordinary administration of the law of the land, nobody would consider them too severe in view of the enormity of the crime and its degrading and disastrous effects on society. But none of these conditions precedes the sentence now pronounced. It is not doubt lamentable that gentlemen of unblemished honour in other respects should stoop to bribery, and still more lamentable that the offence should be one readily condoned by the rank and file of English society in all grades; but lamentable as it may be, there is no question of the fact. It is all very well to say that the law is bound to take a higher view of the ethics of the case than ordinary society, but this is simply a fallacy. It is not bound to do anything of the kind. It is bound to prevent injury to society even when society does not take a sufficiently serious view of the injury done, and consequently looks more austere on bribery than does the average man. Smith. But the moral turpitude of bribery apart from the harm done to society is no more a matter within the purview of the law than the moral turpitude of breaches of the seventh commandment. If, however, this moral consideration be set aside, the question immediately arises how far it is advisable that the law should make bribery so enormously greater an offence than it is considered by the community. Then, again, there were at the general election, a very moderate calculation, ten thousand men guilty of bribery; is it quite fair that ten out of the thousands should be clapped in gaol, and that nothing whatever should be done to the nine hundred and ninety? Because, observe, it is only where a petition is presented and an inquiry held that a prosecution for bribery takes place, and according to universal practice, a witness making a clean breast of it on oath, before the commissioner, is allowed an indemnity from penal proceedings. If every one guilty of the offence were equally liable to punishment, the severity in the present case would be no means so invidious as it seems. Further, is imprisonment of an ordinary misdemeanor precisely the right kind of punishment? It may perhaps be allowed that a money fine does not meet the justice of the case, but were these ten instances exactly those in which it was fair to introduce a novel and a very severe kind of punishment? We are anxious to help forward any measure for purifying elections, the sentence passed in these cases appears to be a mischievous blunder, calculated to enlist public sympathy on the side of bribery rather than of purity, and the blunder does not appear to be materially lessened by the fact that the sentence was pronounced by a judge who happened to differ in political opinion from the culprits, and went farther, as the colleague of the late Lord PALMERSTON at Tiverton, may not impossibly himself have received support from friends not more spotless than Messrs. MAY and MAIR. When HENRY JAMES'S Bill becomes law, let us have

The ranks are closing up on both sides. Mr. Goschen renews his allegiance to the Liberals, unhesitatingly as Lord Carnarvon throws in his lot with the Conservatives. It will be interesting to watch the line taken by Lord Derby on the one side and by the Duke of Argyll, and Lords Grey and Lansdowne on the other in the conflict now impending. As far back as the days of *Æsop*, when the birds and the beasts fell out, it was a rough time for the bats.

Lord George Hamilton at Ealing summed up an important chapter in the history of the relations between the Government and the Land League rather neatly. "When the Land Bill was passed it was found that the Land League had as little respect for it as for the general law. Mr. Gladstone then, instead of suppressing a seditious agitation, chose to put himself in competition with Mr. Parnell. Mr. Parnell outbid him, and then Mr. Gladstone put Mr. Parnell in prison." That the difference between the percentages offered by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell should represent the difference between lodging in Downing-street and Kilmainham gaol has already been noted by Lord Salisbury as a highly interesting political phenomenon.

The execution of Lefroy Mapleton fitly closes the career of one in whose lying confessions there was at least truth enough to justify his being put out of the way as speedily as might be. The dodge of confessing one murder of which he was innocent, in order to stave off the punishment for one of which he was guilty, was worthy of the man. The only evidence that had the smallest appearance of truth in reference to his having been the murderer of Lieut. Roper, was that of Lefroy's sister, and there seems no reasonable doubt that her statements were made with the view of saving her brother's life. The decision of the Home Secretary to refuse the application for a reprieve or commutation of the sentence was simply in accordance with the dictates of common sense. It is, indeed, most difficult to find any trace of logic or reason in the proceedings of insanity for staying execution. Every criminal is more or less morbid, and a perfectly sane intellect cannot be instigated to atrocious crime. But supposing any murderous crime to be due to insanity, what reason has been made out why it should not be punished? The law, as the Lord Chief Justice pointed out in passing sentence, takes cognizance of only of offences against the law, but has nothing whatever to do with assigning the moral sin of offences. It cannot, and does not pretend to judge with regard to the moral responsibility of the individual. But, supposing it impossible or inexpedient to omit all considerations of moral culpability, no case can be made out for sparing a lunatic murderer the punishment due for murder. Either he is sufficiently sane to be aware of the character of the crime he commits, in which case there can be no ground for absolving him from punishment; or else he is too insane to know what he is doing, in which case, surely, to put him out of existence is the most merciful method of treating him.

The case of the pauper lunatic whose death by violence in the Birmingham Borough Asylum commented on last week continues to attract attention. Since we wrote last, Mr. Green, the medical superintendent of the asylum, has died at the age of 81, in consequence of a cold caught at the inquiry. For more than 30 years he had fulfilled the duties of his office with conscientious vigilance, and never blame is due for the neglect which caused the patient's death falls, not on his shoulders, but on those of the Asylum Committee whose ill-judged parsimony did not years ago provide so faithful a servant with an adequate retiring pension. The attendant charged with manslaughter of the patient was committed for trial at the next assizes, and bail was allowed by the magistrates, the prisoner in £40 and two sureties £20 each. The Coroner, however, has refused to grant bail, and in all probability an application will be made in the matter to one of the judges in chambers. The decision of the Coroner is manifestly right. Unless the evidence of the distinguished surgeon who conducted the post-mortem examination Mr. Sampson Gamgee, is to be wholly ignored there can be no doubt that Pulliam was killed.

kick in the back, and to release a prisoner charged with such a crime, on bail of £40 is simply to bring the administration of justice into contempt.

We learn from the papers that Mr. Killen, barrister, the editor of *United Ireland*, has been arrested on a warrant charging him with being "reasonably suspected" of inciting people not to pay rent. Well, considering that in the last number of *United Ireland* is a poem entitled "The Last Weapon," containing the following verses, we do, on the whole, incline to think that he may be "reasonably suspected" of the offence:—

No rent! The land is ours,
And, by heaven, we'll hold our own,
In spite of bristling bayonets
And barricades of stone!

No rent! Their empty coffers
What slavish fool would fill
With gold to forge our fetters
And work their tyrant will?

No rent! We can besiege them,
Though not with pikes and steel—
The pang that was the peasants' lot,
Let now the landlords feel!

No rent! Starve out the garrison—
From forth his prison cell
Our dauntless chief has spoken,
Who speaketh all things well.

Plant on the writhing viper
That fain would rear its crest,
The heel of Ireland's manhood,
And heaven will do the rest.

That little bit of butter for Mr. Parnell's parsnips in the penultimate verse is delicious, and after all, as the final verse suggests, Pat's heel and Providence can do a good many things between them.

Mr. Gorst, in a letter to the *Morning Post*, asks sundry very pertinent questions with regard to the Royal Charter granted on November 1 to the North Borneo Company, to which we have already called attention. The most important of these relates to the actual sovereignty of the territory granted. Does this belong to her Majesty, or does it not? If it does, why is her Majesty's sovereignty delegated to a trading company? If it does not, by what right is her Majesty made to delegate a sovereignty which is not her own? Whichever horn of this dilemma Mr. Gladstone chooses to be spiked upon, he cannot escape being effectually pinned. If the sovereignty was her Majesty's to grant, when and how was the huge annexation to the British empire effected? By what treaty or concession carefully concealed from Parliament and the people did her Majesty become mistress of so large a portion of the territory of the Sultans of the Brunei and Sooloo? What authority can possibly exist for the establishment within her Majesty's dominions of a despotic constitution wielded by a trading company? But if, as seems to be the case, the territory over which sovereign rights are granted in no sense belongs to her Majesty, what earthly right can her Government have to give away what does not belong to her, and what would be the result to this country supposing either the native Sultan were to assert his authority, or a European state to claim the same rights as the chartered company? This last contingency indeed, would seem already to have occurred, for Spain, who has long asserted rights of a more or less vague kind over parts of the Bornean mainland, appears to regard as her own, at least some portion of the territory over which the rights have been granted by Mr. Gladstone's charter. With regard to other matters, the legal status of a trading concern claiming the power of life and death granted by a foreign power over territory not theirs—the legalisation of slavery in a territory over which the Queen claims sovereignty—and a host of other questions of international law raised by the grant, we have nothing to say here. It is satisfactory to know that all will have to be answered categorically, without equivocation or evasion, when Parliament meets.

A MAN VERY MUCH TO BE PITIED.

A bachelor Marquis and heir to a duchy,
Not more middle-aged than 'tis proper to be;
With a liver untouched, and a temper not touchy,
You'd fancy, perhaps, it were well to be me!
Yet in spite of it all, I'm a man to be pitied:
So taunted and twitted,
A man very much to be pitied!

I'm a pet in the House, where my pals call me Harty,
I sit like a Stoic to windward or lee;
Five years I was Chief of the Liberal party,
And while they're in office there's office for me!
Yet in spite of it all, I'm a man to be pitied,
So fooled and outwitted,
A man very much to be pitied!

What's the matter, you ask? Why, I'm Sinbad the Sailor,
With Orator Will for Old Man of the Sea!
On my shoulders for ever he squats like a tailor,
With his legs round my throat as he thunders out
"gee."

I assure you, indeed, I'm a man to be pitied,
So bridled and bitted,
A man very much to be pitied!

Pitch him over? No doubt 't would be truly delightful
To have the old incubus off and be free!
But a Demagogue's worse than a woman for spiteful,
And with Joey and Johnny—just think of the three!
I should be more than ever a man to be pitied,
So spiked and so spitted,
A man very much to be pitied!

Pitch him off? Why, a bull in a china-shop's cooler,
An express off the metals less headstrong than he!
Bad enough as it is both for ruled and for ruler,
'T were a thousand times worse if I let him go free.
Though of course, as I say, I'm a man to be pitied,
So fixed and so fitted,
A man very much to be pitied!

So still down a path waxing steeper and steeper,
I carry aloft that Old Man of the Sea.
He guides me and gags me, but still I'm his keeper,
His gaul-bird am I, and my maniac he,
So you see how it is, I'm a man to be pitied,
So cramped and committed,
A man very much to be pitied!

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE.—As the result of a fall which happened to the Empress Eugenie on Thursday at Prince's-gate, she was not able to pay a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle yesterday.

A SOLEMN AFFIRMATION.—At the Plymouth police-court on Monday, Wm. Adamson, boot-closer, Buckwell-street, summoned three young women in his employ for leaving work without his permission. On coming to be sworn, Mr. Adamson asked to be allowed to make a solemn affirmation instead of taking the oath. He did so on the ground that he was a member of the Plymouth branch of the National Secular Society. His application was granted. The summonses he brought were dismissed.

THE TRIAL OF GITEAU.

About twenty insanity experts, summoned by the defence, carefully examined Giteau last Sunday, afterwards consulting together. That some degree of mental unsoundness marks the prisoner seems generally to be accepted, the question being whether this reaches the degree contemplated by the legal definition of insanity. The trial was resumed on Monday. The court was crowded, mostly by ladies. Mrs. Scoville, Giteau's sister, resumed her testimony, her belief being that Giteau is insane, and that he should long ago have been put in an asylum. Mr. D. Burroughs, of Chicago, testified that he concluded in 1878 that Giteau was

Either a Fool or Crazy.

being satisfied that he was unsettled in his intellect. During the interval, after Mr. Burroughs's evidence, Giteau, who previously was quietly reading the newspapers, shouted, "I desire to tell all these crank newspaper men that I appear here as my own counsel. That is my answer to all the silly stuff they have been delivering themselves of for some days past. Some of these newspaper men have gone crazy. I appear here in part as my own counsel, as I have a right to do under the law and constitution of America." The Court took no notice of this and made no effort to silence him; in fact, the Judge is in a quandary what to do. He has several times consulted with his associates, the decision being that, while the prisoner insists on being his own counsel, the Court cannot well deny him this right without admitting his insanity as a bar to its exercise. John Giteau, a brother of the prisoner, said he had not doubted the prisoner's sanity till he received some letters during last October. Since seeing the prisoner in court and in jail, he believed him to be insane. On cross-examination the witness admitted he believed the prisoner responsible, but not sane. He thought him responsible because the prisoner had surrendered voluntarily to evil practices. Giteau winced under these statements, fearing that his brother's candour was injuring his case. With considerable bitterness he said:—"My brother and I have not been on good terms for fifteen years. He always sympathised with my father in that Oneida community business, while Mr. Scoville and my sister sympathised with me. The last time I saw my brother in Boston we had angry words, so he does not come here to testify for me with ordinary force that a brother usually does come. I am glad to find that he has changed his views in my case. I want the public to understand about this." Giteau steadily interrupted the witness. Once, Judge Davidge and the prosecuting counsel tried to stop him.

Giteau Shouted.

"You keep quiet, Judge." The witness, on being asked whether at a certain time he thought Giteau insane, the prisoner quickly anticipated the reply, saying, "Why, of course, he always thought I was badly 'cracked.' The witness, concluding, said that he never thought their father insane. After the recess, John Giteau said that he did not know of the insanity of his aunt and two uncles, except by report. He believed that his brother at the same time, being a free agent, he was morally responsible for his crime. The prisoner interrupted:—"You have got that wrong side up. It is poor theology, and a poor position for you to take." Giteau himself was then sworn. Seating himself, he said:—"I presume it is understood, Judge, that I do not appear as a regular witness, but simply to identify some letters." The letters were then handed to Giteau, who identified them, and the Court then adjourned.

Giteau, in his testimony on Tuesday, gave a description of his life at the Oneida community, speaking of it with horror, anger, and disgust. He said that he was in a terrible condition of mind there, "as bad as I could be without being crank and mad." He made up his mind to leave them. He then went to New York to establish a religious newspaper called the *Theocrat*, but he got no encouragement. The newspaper men he consulted thought the name enough to damn it. His idea in establishing the newspaper was to rip all the churches establishing them over again. He returned for a year to the Oneida community, but left them finally in 1866. Giteau then described in a voluble manner his movements after leaving Oneida, ultimately going to Chicago, where after five months' study, he was admitted to the bar. He then went round among the high-toned people. He had good references to these, and, he said, "my personal appearance always got good business." He made 2,000 dollars yearly. He then got run down and in debt, and got

Demoralised on Theology.

"When you get down," Giteau said, "every one gives you a kick." He was in jail several times, but never for a crime. He never was indicted before. He continued his speech at great length.—A later account says that the expectation that Giteau would testify attracted vast crowds to the Washington Court-house. Giteau was unwell, and for the first time looked pale and careworn. He dreaded testifying. When called upon he asked, "Am I to identify letters? I suppose the latter, I am not feeling well, but shall feel much better in a week or so." A colloquy ensued between Giteau and Mr. Scoville, Giteau objecting to testifying because he did not wish to be cross-examined while unwell. Finally, Mr. Scoville said that the Court would relieve him if he felt ill. Giteau then said, "With that understanding, I will go on." The prosecution objected to any such arrangement, and the judge said that if the witness began, the examination could not be suspended except by consent of the counsel on the other side. Giteau nodded approval, saying, "That is the rule, Judge, as I understand it." After a further discussion, Giteau was removed from the box. The witness then occupied in reading the letters written by Giteau to members of his family, covering a period of twenty years. These letters were presented to show his insanity. Giteau afterwards consented to testify, and, questioned by Mr. Scoville, he narrated his life from his earliest recollection, becoming at times very voluble. He looked pale and agitated, but got into a talkative mood.

Twenty-one

summoned by both sides, are in Washington watching the prisoner. They have free access to him in the jail, and are also attending the court, noting his peculiarities. Giteau resumed his testimony on Wednesday, giving further accounts of his life, his religious belief, and his lecturing experiences, the latter generally being unfortunate. He compared his case to the apostle Paul, saying, striking his fist on the desk, "I strove to frighten the world, but I failed. I had no money and no friends. I had just about as rough a time as the apostle Paul had." He then described his association with the Stalwart Republicans and his political speechmaking. He said that he was on easy terms with Mr. Arthur Jewell and the rest of them. "They always treated me delightfully. They thought I was a good fellow, and commended my zeal for the cause." He then described his applications for office, first writing to General Garfield at Mentor. He then visited General Garfield at the White House. He shook hands with him, which was written "The Paris Consulship." He left him reading the speech. That was the only interview he ever had with General Garfield. Giteau said, "I wish it to be stated here that my getting on and getting off had nothing whatever to do with my removing the President. That was an act of inspiration, done as a political necessity. I was urged by the Divine Presence." He recounted his efforts to gain the ear of public men for office. They failed, and then came his inspiration suddenly. On the Wednesday evening after Senator Conkling's resignation, he thought that if General Garfield were out of the way all would go well. He tried to shake this feeling off, but it grew on him, and in a fortnight he became fixed in his resolve. He never doubted it since that time. About the 1st of June, when he was inspired, he prayed, asking God, if he were not to be thus removed, to get rid of General Garfield in some other way. The removal was necessary to save the nation from ruin. Giteau became evidently much fatigued in telling this tale, showing signs of breaking down, and speaking with less animation, the great mental strain showing itself in his behaviour. He said that Mr. Blaine, in their interview, hurt his feelings by his abrupt manner, which was in so great a contrast with his previous cordiality. He then de-

termined again to see the President. He wrote notes to the President, but no attention was paid to them. Giteau worried over the political situation, feeling that the country was coming to grief. Being asked what he meant by inspiration to remove the President, Giteau said:—"Inspiration, as I understand it, is when a man's mind is taken possession of by

The Supreme Power;

where he acts outside himself." Explaining further, he said that at first he was horrified, but kept thinking until he knew it was inspiration:—"I knew the Lord hath employed me, because He always employs the best material. He knew I had courage to do it. Then, too, I felt that the Lord wanted me to do it in order to advertise my book. I kept praying to the Lord to intercept my act if it was not intended to be." Giteau never mentioned his inspiration or purposes to any one during the interval previous to the shooting. He is preparing a revised edition of his book. The truth is that Giteau did not describe the incidents of the shooting, his counsel refraining from asking questions about them, excepting as to whether he had a distinct recollection of the incidents of July 2. Giteau answered smilingly, "Yes, certainly." He then briefly described his arrest. He said that he staked his life upon his inspiration. He felt that the Lord and the Government would take care of him. He said that he felt happy when he was finally lodged in jail, "because, thank God, it was all over." He could not eat or sleep till the thing was done. Then he felt relieved. Giteau finally said:—"I want to define my position on one point. I believe that Mr. Arthur is a friend of mine. He ought to be, for I am the man that made him, or my inspiration did; but I never yet asked a favour of him, and do not suppose that I ever shall."

Throughout his cross-examination on Thursday, Giteau maintained a very impertinent demeanour, making jeering remarks to counsel, and several times reiterating his story of being impelled by the Deity to commit the crime. He displayed much passion.

On Thursday, the counsel for the prosecution sharply cross-examined Giteau with a view to proving that his

Alleged Inspiration

was a pretence. The prisoner showed great indignation, and constantly refused, in a contemptuous tone, to reply to the questions. When asked directly, "Are you insane at all?" he replied, "I am not an expert. Let the experts and the jury decide." Giteau afterwards gave a detailed account of his actions on the night preceding the assassination. He said he saw President Garfield and Mr. Blaine walking down the street lovingly together. He thought that General Garfield had sold himself, body and soul, to Mr. Blaine in order to ruin

The Stalwart Wing

of the Republican party. He here fiercely denounced Mr. Blaine and declared that he (Mr. Blaine) was morally responsible for President Garfield's death. The prisoner added that as he watched them walking along he took out his pistol and would have shot the President then had he been alone. Giteau added it was a hot night and he did not feel well. He did not, therefore, try to shoot the President that night. He had to nerve himself up to it all the time. The counsel for the prosecution retorted in a very angry and excited tone, that conscience had nothing to do with it. It was the act of the Deity and of necessity.—The examination of the prisoner here concluded.

BODY SNATCHING OF A DECEASED EARL.

Our Aberdeen correspondent of the Press Association telegraphed on Friday:—An extraordinary discovery has just been made at Dun Echt, near Aberdeen, the seat of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres. Yesterday morning it was found that the body of the late Earl had been stolen from the private mortuary attached to the chapel. The deceased Earl died in Italy, and the body was brought home and interred in the vault at Dun Echt, about a year ago. It would seem that the sacrilegious theft had been committed as far back as the month of May or June last. About that time a strange odour was discovered to be escaping from the vault, but it was believed that it proceeded from the decay of the flowers with which the coffin and vault had been strewn at the funeral. The place was accordingly re-sealed up, and the odour was not again noticed. A short time ago, however, an anonymous letter was sent to the agent of the noble family, throwing out a distinct allegation that the body had been stolen, but no notice was taken of the letter, as it was thought impossible that anything of the kind could have been done without being discovered. The thieves, however (and there must have been several of them), would not let the matter rest, and yesterday morning it was found that during the night a large stone which formed the covering of the vault had been removed, and when search was made for the body it was nowhere to be found. The family are at present absent from Dun Echt, but although great mystery surrounds the case, the particulars are pretty well known in the neighbourhood of the castle, and in Aberdeen itself. The police, who observe close secrecy in the matter, are engaged in investigating the affair.

A later telegram from Aberdeen states that the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres died in Florence, and the body having been embalmed by an Italian operator, was brought over and interred in the vault on December 29, 1880. On the morning of Thursday it was found that the turf and slabs at the mouth of the vault had been displaced. Search was made, and it was discovered that the body had been removed, the three coffins in which it was enclosed having been opened. Curiously enough, none of the silver mountings had been taken. There is reason to believe that the act of desecration was committed several months ago, and the circumstances of the daring outrage place it on an equality with the theft of the body of the late Mr. Stewart, the New York millionaire. A labourer going to work at eight o'clock in the morning first noticed that some one had disturbed the stone over the vault. The slab nearest the top of the stair by which the tomb is reached was raised on one side and left upstanding in that position by a rough piece of wood. Although the discovery was made at an early hour in the morning, no one entered the vault until the arrival from Aberdeen of the police inspector, who, accompanied by his lordship's commissioner, entered the vault in the afternoon. The matter was then made plain. The coffin had been pulled forward some distance on the slab on which it rested, in order to facilitate the operation of opening it. The outer case was a massive one, of carved oak, with silver mountings, in which was enclosed a shell of zinc or lead, containing the inner case of wood in which the remains were laid. The work of opening was evidently executed by skilled hands. The lower ends of the coffin were cut through, and the packing taken out until the inner shell was reached. The body had been drawn out at the feet end of the coffin thus left open. The thieves seemed to have been perfectly systematic and deliberate in all that had been done. The pieces removed from the coffin, together with some of the packing, strewed the floor of the vault, but beyond this nothing was disarranged. The deceased earl was much respected and loved by all who knew him on account of his generous and kindly disposition, and nothing but the hope of extorting a ransom could have been the object of the thieves. It has been suggested that the body may not have been put into the coffin at Florence, but this is discredited, as its embalming was superintended by, amongst others, the late nobleman's favourite valet.

FATAL OCCURRENCE.—The landlord of the Enterprise tavern, Long-acre, Mr. Redgrave, lost his death by accident a day or two since. While counting his money, a revolver he had with him went off by accident, and the contents entered the owner's body inflicting fatal wounds.

ROBBERY BY AN OFFICER.

At the Westminster Police-court, on Friday, William Alfred Ernest Loneragan, aged 22, a lieutenant in the 68th Regiment of Foot, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing an emerald stud, a diamond stud, and other articles, of the value of £100, the property of Hugh Weguelin, of 22, Ebury-street, Belgrave-square.—The sworn information stated that, at about half-past two on the morning of the 11th ult., the prosecutor was entertaining a party, but was absent, and at about a quarter to three a.m. a ring at the door called down Mr. Rose, who let the prisoner in. He was an occasional caller at the house. He went into the sitting-room, and afterwards was seen in the bed-room adjoining, which was the dressing-room, and in an open drawer there were an emerald stud, a diamond "bee" stud, and cat's-eye pin, and a pearl horseshoe pin. He stayed some time, and then left, and Mr. Weguelin's servant afterwards found that the articles mentioned had been taken. About half-past two on the same day the prisoner called at the shop of Mr. Cox, in Wardour-street, Soho, and asked him to purchase a stud, which he said was "paste," for 25s. Witness, believing it was "paste" at the time, gave him 15s. for it, the prisoner giving the name of Loneragan, and the address, 49, Denbigh-street, Piccadilly. The other property had been disposed of for paltry sums. When apprehended the prisoner expressed the greatest surprise, but when told that the property had been found disposed of at various places, said he had picked up the articles wrapped in paper outside Mr. Weguelin's house and had done wrong in parting with them, for he should have taken them to the police-station. At the police court he adhered to that statement before the remand, although it was suggested that he should first consult his legal advisers.—Mr. Lewis, who appeared for the prosecution, said, that having regard to the position of the parties—both young men—and the defendant, an officer in the army, the prosecutor did not propose to go on with the matter.—Mr. Partridge said it was a case of felony, and he could not make any distinction between parties. The case must go on.—Witnesses were then called to prove that the articles were pledged by the prisoner.—Mr. Weguelin identified the property as his. He had known the prisoner about four years, and had been with him at the Leinster in Paris. He had kept up the acquaintance in London, and they had friends in common.—Mr. Lewis again asked that the prosecution should be allowed to withdraw in such a painful case.—Mr. Partridge said he had only one duty on such evidence, painful as the case was. It was to send the case for trial.—Mr. Wontner (for the prisoner) said he thought he should be able to alter the aspect of affairs. No one could suppose that a man of the position of the defendant would be capable of such a theft, for his own conduct showed that he had given every opportunity of detection, by his visit to the house and alleged subsequent disposition of the property.—Mr. Partridge said he should only be too glad to hear of an explanation.—Mr. Wontner argued that the probabilities on either side were of such a character that the magistrate could listen to the suggestion of Mr. Lewis, and allow Mr. Weguelin to carry out the dictates of his own conscience.—Mr. Partridge repeated that, painful as the charge was, he had only one duty. The prisoner, if his account of finding the property were true, had been guilty of a felony. It was a question for a jury whether the prisoner in a moment of sudden temptation had taken the property. He was afraid that the prisoner had yielded to this temptation, and committed him on bail for trial at the Old Bailey.

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday afternoon.
Money is easy, with a fair supply offering, and a limited demand. Three months' bills are quoted 31 to 32, and day to day loans 34 per cent.

On the Stock Exchange quietness prevails, but with some show of steadiness. Consols are higher for money. As regards English railways, North British was at first very flat on further sales, but the price has since rallied. Other stocks are firm, but scarcely altered. Canadian and American railways were steady and rather better, but the movements were very slight. In Foreign Bonds a fair business was done. All speculative issues were in request. Egyptian were again in demand, and were further advanced. Turkish also were steady, as were Italian and Russian, but Spanish were a shade easier. Imperial Ottoman Bank shares were firm. In miscellaneous securities very little was done, and the changes were insignificant.

Annexed is a list of after official hours' prices:—
Consols for Money, 3 per Cent., 104 1/2.
New South Wales 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
1880-82 S.S., 104 1/2.
New Zealand Consolidated 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
South Australian 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Victoria 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Bank Stock, 294.
India 4 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Metropolitan Board of Works, 21 per Cent. Stock, 104 1/2.

RAILWAYS.

Caledonian, 109 1/2.
East London, 25 1/2.
Great Eastern, 74 1/2.
Great North of Scotland, 67 1/2.
Great Northern, 112 1/2.
Ditto A., 112 1/2.
Great Western, 124 1/2.
Lancashire and Yorkshire, 124 1/2.
London and Brighton, 104 1/2.
Ditto A., 104 1/2.
London, Chatham, and Dover, 201 1/2.
Ditto Preference, 104 1/2.
London and North-Western, 170 1/2.
London and South-Western, 170 1/2.
Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 104 1/2.
Ditto Deferred, 112 1/2.
Metropolitan, 124 1/2.
Metropolitan District, 74 1/2.
Midland, 104 1/2.
North British, 104 1/2.
North-Eastern, 124 1/2.
North Staffordshire, 55 1/2.
Rhymney, 104 1/2.
South-Eastern, 104 1/2.
Ditto A., 104 1/2.
Bromley, Barking, and Central India, 104 1/2.
Eastern Bengal, 104 1/2.
East Indian 4 1/2 per Cent., Annuit A., 104 1/2.
Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent., Deferred, 104 1/2.
Ditto Annuit B., 21 paid, 104 1/2.
Great Indian Peninsula, 104 1/2.
Madras, 104 1/2.
Oude and Rohilkhand, 104 1/2.

FOREIGN BONDS.

Argentine, 100 1/2 per Cent., 101 1/2.
Ditto, 1871, Public Works, 6 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Austrian 4 1/2 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Austrian Silver Rentes, 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
Ditto, 1871, 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.
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Ditto, 2000, 5 per Cent., 104 1/2.

DARING ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE BY A CONVICT.—A daring attempt was made by a convict named Laxton to escape from Dartmoor Convict Prison on Thursday night. He was shut in his cell for the night apparently securely, there being two feet of solid granite masonry between him and the nearest approach to the outer world, which is the guard of the prison, surrounded by

OMNIBUS.

I can't help feeling that Bismarck is right about Hamburg and Bremen. If they belong to Germany let them be German and not cosmopolitan.

But he seems to me right also on a much more important matter, German parliamentary institutions. As I understand him, the position he takes up is this: "Parliamentary institutions and government by party are all very well in a consolidated country once definitely and inseparably united. But during the process of unification they are quite as much a hindrance as a help, and Germany is not yet so welded together that she can afford to be governed entirely by party."

For the life of me I cannot see any valid answer to this argument, nor can I see any valid reason for considering a man who upholds it an advocate of despotism. All he says is "the time is not yet ripe for unrestricted party government, I want if you will let me, to make it ripe as early as possible."

Who was it that said "Despotism is the best form of Government, on one condition—that your despot governs for the people and not for himself?" The sentiment may be open to question, but it is one which Prince Bismarck may be excused for regarding as tolerably accurate.

I note that what I wrote you a fortnight ago about certain militia regiments being embodied for permanent service to replace troops sent to Ireland, has at last trickled through to the dailies as news.

The money subscribed for the decoration of St. Paul's, raises several questions of interest. Is the decoration to be carried through in "the style of the period?" If yes, how about the mosaics and stained glass? If no, what other style should be adopted?

If it were Gothic of any kind, then indeed the matter would be simplified to some extent. As it is, St. Paul's is English, Italian, Roman, Greek in style, and it is almost impossible to say what may or may not be admissible.

One thing seems clear enough, that work of our æsthetic Victorian era will not fit on to classic work of the latest Stuart era, and it may be worth while to consider whether it is not better frankly to acknowledge the fact and go our own way to work, as the mediæval decorators and architects did. But what is our own way?

I see there is a meeting at St. James's Hall next Friday about municipal reform. Shall we have the wonderful arrangement aired again by which the entire metropolitan district is to be placed under a single municipality? Or shall we have a number of separate municipalities advocated? Or will it be a meeting dealing with practical metropolitan politics?

That noble lord who is selling his own coal to the public, without the intervention of a middle-man, must look out for having things made rough for him, but it is a plucky venture, and will meet no doubt with considerable encouragement. If it turns out a success, we shall see something like a revolution.

The drop of some two shillings a ton in the price of coal, is, I apprehend, due to the high range of the thermometer during the past month, and has nothing to do with the innovation on the old system of conducting the coal trade.

What on earth has turned Sir Wilfrid Lawson into a Home Ruler? Is his new doctrine simply an extension of the principle of Local Option, or has he been demoralised by a long course of water-drinking?

"Force, and force" of the most uncompromising character is the only engine which the Irish murderer has any respect for, and we know he is very amenable to its application." So says the *Daily Chronicle*, in enforcing the words of Professor Goldwin Smith. But how about the praise in the same paper of Mr. Bright's "Force is no Remedy?"

Here is a cutting from the last *United Irishman*. "The result of the Stafford election will be more force for Ireland. The argument of the bludgeon and bayonet has a wholesome effect in stimulating national sentiment and we never object to a periodical onslaught." Which way up is this to be read?

The next paragraph tells us that a certain stipendiary magistrate is "a thorough-going yahoo in ignorance, and more stupid than any donkey," but does not throw any light on the manner in which the Stafford election may be expected to enforce the bludgeon and bayonet argument.

Six sub-marine cables disestablished *pro tem*, one to Spain, two across the Channel, and three in the North Sea. A merchant, who calls attention to the fact in the *Times*, suggests that Mr. Chamberlain is too busy enlightening the country generally to attend to the business of his own department. Perhaps so.

Mr. Auberon Herbert has a suggestion about land—"Make the owner complete owner of his property, sweep existing restrictions out of existence, and I believe the reappearance of the yeoman will take place." Possibly; but Mr. Herbert's belief is hardly sufficient to justify the experiment. I don't believe it, and my disbelief is every bit as good a reason for letting things alone.

The *Referee* entertains a rooted objection to stamping up £1,500 to Mr. Clement Scott, and a new trial has been granted, partly on the ground that it was competent to put questions to the plaintiff, although called as a witness to discredit him. So, no doubt, there will be a nice tub-full more of dirty linen to wash in public. Mr. Justice Field observed that a rule for a new trial on the ground that the damages were excessive could not be granted.

This will be an amazing year for private Bills in the House. Never for half a generation has there been such a crop. Sixty-six more than last year, and a great proportion of them railway Bills. Last year there were 87 only, as against 127 this year.

More than one of these railway bills will make a considerable commotion, and one at least, if carried, will create a revolution in the course of traffic through London.

Go and see the Artificial Flower Show at the Town Hall, Kensington. The flowers are the work of the "London Flower Girl Brigade," mustered by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, who has not forgotten the poor any more since her marriage than she did before.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Punch.)

HOW IT WAS DONE.

IDENTICAL TELEGRAMS ADDRESSED TO HOME AND FOREIGN SECRETARIES BY PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST.

Will you kindly grant me an interview?

IDENTICAL REPLY TO THE ABOVE FROM BOTH SECRETARIES.

No, thank you. Write a despatch.

COMMUNICATION FROM PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST TO BOTH SECRETARIES.

I do not think the public will be pleased at the treatment my thirteen boys have received.

COMMUNICATION TO PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST FROM HOME SECRETARY.

I say, can't you get some private individual to pay for the clothes?

DITTO FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY.

Look here, surely some one won't mind defraying the passage-money.

ANGRY HINT OF PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST TO BOTH SECRETARIES.

I won't stand any more nonsense! The boys can be provided for if they are brought over, and unless they are I shall at once place the whole affair before the British public.

IMMEDIATE REJOINDER.

Our dear sir, our very dear sir! You are not in earnest, are you? Everything has been ordered to your complete satisfaction, so pray don't say anything more about an exposure! We cannot sufficiently thank you for your kindness in this matter! Bless you! Bless you! Bless you!

P.S. BY HOME SECRETARY.

So much to do just now about Industrial Schools, or should have attended to your Arabs at once. Quite appreciate your efforts. Bless you!

TELEGRAM FROM PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST, CONSTANTINOPLE, TO FOREIGN SECRETARY, LONDON.

Have rescued thirteen English boys. They have no clothes and no money. Will you kindly order them to receive wearing apparel and to be sent to England? Letter on its way to the daily papers, describing my adventures.

TELEGRAM FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, LONDON, TO PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Congratulate you heartily upon your rescue. Rather difficult about clothing and passage-money. Will see what can be done. In meantime, do what you can yourself. Shall look out for your letters in papers with interest.

NOTE FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO HOME SECRETARY.

Dear Harry,—There are thirteen boys waiting at Constantinople for a passage to England and some trousers. Surely this is your matter?—Yours sincerely, GRANT.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

Dear Granny,—Bosh! It's yours.—Yours sincerely, HARRY.

NOTE FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO HOME SECRETARY.

Dear Harry,—Don't play the fool. I say you must do something.—Yours sincerely, GRANT.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

Dear Granny,—I am not playing the fool. I won't do anything.—Yours sincerely, HARRY.

TELEGRAM FROM PHILANTHROPIC TOURIST TO FOREIGN SECRETARY.

My thirteen boys are still waiting for their clothes and passage-money. Kindly remit both.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

I must refer you to the Home Secretary.

REPLY OF HOME SECRETARY TO SIMILAR TELEGRAM.

Please apply to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

THE CITY ARAB'S CHOICE.

London Arab? Yes, that's me. But I don't precisely

When they give us rummy names, where the mighty us may be.

Potry chaps and parson coves—them as preach to us so fine.

And wot sings us luvly hymns, which they gives out line by line—

Talks a patter o' their own, like a gipsy or a prig.

But I don't quite understand their pertle little rig.

Lambs and loutings, and all that, sounds astremely nice, oh, yes!

But I can't exactly see what they've got to do with us.

Similar, why they calls us chaps London Arabs sum-mixed up.

Till my chummy Scholar Mike, who's a mark at

Read me Lillier's little tale; now I'm fly to it, in course,

Which a Arab's life all round seems a game o' pitch and torse.

Wot's we made for? That licks me. There don't seem to be no room

For such odd uns out as me, ev'n with lightrights or a broom.

'Cept we're game to take our kicks quiet and 'umble like a dog.

'Long o' walls upon our backs and black beads in our prog.

Wot's the odds, I want to know, if it's Arab blokes abroad.

Or them o' her leatherin' lot what they keeps at the Skool Board?

Kicks is kicks, a starvo's a starvo, nor it don't improve the fun

When yer aven't got dog's luck and can't even cut and run.

Nekked feet and string-tied rags aint so lummy, s'elp me, No!

N'yot snooze upon a step when them reglar North 'uns blow.

Then to live upon the scout, no right nowhere's day or night.

Not no sacks and not no sleep, whilst a 'olmet is in sight.

To be down upon your luck with the fever or the cramp.

And to 'uddle in a 'ole where its always cold or damp!

No, a London Arab's life aint't even by a lot;

But then wot's a cove to do? Nothin' better's to be got.

Far's I see, That Lillier party shows it aint no use abroad.

And they only serves yer wus if yer copped by the Skool Board.

So yer don't ketch me, not willin, goin' in for either fate.

Arab brutes nor 'Duastrial blokes,—I prefers the gutter—straight!

(From Fun.)

OLD SONGS ARRANGED FOR ÆSTHETIC RACE.

(Some Sample Verses.)

"I think the influence intense

That on my birth has smiled

And made me in these too-so days

An utter æsthetic id!"

Marigolds and lilacs! Oh, the bound flowers,

Coming in the gloaming to tell of utter hours;

When the willows "waly," and the sunflowers flare,

Marigolds and lilacs frolic everywhere!

What is an Æsthetic made of;

Dado's—blue wares,

And Chippendale chairs—

That's what an Æsthetic is made of!

When I was young and had no sense,

I was not utter, nor yet intense,

But now I've a mediæval way,

And Botticelli's my only stay!

(From Judy.)

SINGULARLY ENOUGH.—A person may do a roaring

trade if even he deals in dumb animals.—Most people

act in direct opposition to their wishes when they get

up to come down to breakfast.—Stage traps are never

laid.—"Dumb" waiters "answer" You do not require

any knowledge of poultry killing for (wringing the

neck) slow neighbour's bell.—And most singular of all, a profit can be made, and a good one to boot, by selling sovereign remedies for a shilling.

"OUR FRIENDS WILL WAIT UPON YOU."—Scene: A rural English village. Time: Sunday evening.—Family

preparing for church.—S o o h Aunt (a "near" relative, on a visit): Let us gang to a place where there's

a nae after-tery.—Lively Niece: Then we must take a

walk to the mental pillar, auntie, which is the only

institution here where there is no "collection on

Sunday."

A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

The world is changing every way,

And ladies are to change inclining;

We've almost all for "the div."

Of "crinolining."

Gone to the memories of the past,

The distance tho' a trifle less is,

Few thought how long the style would last

Of eel-skin dresses.

And nearer to our present time,

Part left, like Smollett when he lost Hume,

Uncoloured yet in rhyme,

The Jersey costume.

But now a custom new prevails,

And thence the form of all our pets is;

The fashion to appear in tails,

And crinolines is.

And still ahead the fashion runs,

For public meetings have decided,

And womankind no longer shuns

Skirts called "divided."

As animals with clothes we vex

(The miller's son puts boots on mousers),

We yet may see the charming sex

At length in trousers!

(From Funny Folks.)

THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL SCANDAL.

Careless alike of praise or blame,

(Though most folk would defend her),

Bold Mrs. Surr acts on her name:

Her motto—"No Surr-ender!"

On his part Mr. Scrutiny brands

With scorn the noisy mutiny,

And very properly demands

A full official Scrutiny.

STAFFORD RAGGED.

The Telegram to the Carlton ran after this fashion:—

The bird is caught! Old tactics did not fail:

Nothing like putting Salt upon its tail.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?—Lord Granville: See,

Mr. Beadle, here are two English waifs for you. We

found them in Constantinople, where they were starved

and ill-treated.—Mr. Bull (Beadle): Well, but what am

I to do with them here—send 'em to Harcourt's Industrial

School?

"EXTRAORDINARY TITLES."—INDEED.—The Mormons

are obliged to pay to their church one-tenth of all they

raise, make, or earn. But supposing they raise objections,

make mistakes, and earn the gratitude of the public, how

will they manage to assess their tithes then?

(From Moonshine.)

DRAMATIC CRITICISM.

We understand that in consequence of the unsatis-

factory nature of dramatic criticism as at present practised,

Mr. Fawcett proposes to annex this branch of journalism

to the Post Office. The appointments will be open to

competition, under the following regulations:—

(1.) The critic must not be already a Government

clerk, because in that case his country has enough of

him as it is.

(2.) He must know French that he may not mistake it

for Chinese, and that he may not wait to smile until the

audience laugh.

(3.) He must not be a maker of plays, because his

pieces will be bad; and when he praises his own

production the actors, not the author, will be blamed.

(4.) He must not criticise for several papers at once.

(5.) He must not criticise for several papers at once.

(6.) He must not sit beside an actor or an author on a

first night, for they will tell him what to say of their

rivals on the stage, and what he says will not be true.

(7.) He must not love an actress unless she is a good

one, for he will praise whom he loves; and he must love

every good actress, in order to do justice to all.

(8.) He must learn boxing; he must not receive loans,

gifts, or legacies; he must be a critic as well as a writer;

he must, for the sake of the drama, the public, the poor

wretches who depend upon his dictum, be an honest man.

N.B. Any paper that cannot afford to keep a whole

critic to its own account will, on petition, receive a

subsidy.

A STORY IN QUOTES.

"I have been witness to how the London poor are

housed; I will endeavour to improve their condition."

—George Peabody.

"I have got an Industrial Dwellings Act passed of

incalculable benefit to the London poor, but being ousted

from office, must leave it to my successor, Sir William

Harcourt, to carry out."

—The London Brewers.

"Where are we to go?"—The Houseless Poor.

"Move on, here, —X 92."

"The filthy alley reeked with abomination. The

court consisted of a dozen wretched tumbledown struc-

tures let out in tenements. At least fifty families were

crowded in this den."—Long Acre Revelations.

"We are making a clear five per cent."—Peabody

Committee.

"We haven't begun work yet, but when we do."—Sir

William Harcourt.

"Trade is brisk."—The London Undertaker.

"You must earn fair wages, or you can't live here."

Industrial Dwellings Prospector.

"In that case, what becomes of the legislation for the

very poor?"—Moonshine.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From the World.)

A daily contemporary states that nothing definite has

THE BERLIN TREATY AND THE BEACONSFIELD POLICY: What they Were, What they Meant, and What they Must Come To.

PART III.—BISMARCK IN EGYPT.

"Bismarck in Egypt and on the Euphrates" were indeed an ominous conjunction, and a curious comment on the imbecility of certain Parliamentary chieftains, and on the jealousies and weaknesses which may be imported into Parliamentary Government. Yet as to the former, it is amongst the well-known secrets of the inner official life of Egypt that Prince Bismarck did interfere not long since at a very important crisis in Egyptian matters, and that he interfered as usual, well, successfully, and to the point, when both French and English statesmen lacked the nerve or the sense to speak and act plainly; and if it be true that Baron Strousberg has received the concession of a railway along the valley of the Euphrates, it is equally true that German interests, and not English, may become paramount on the great valley which lies between us and India, and that our ability to make good our agreement with Turkey has for the first time been jeopardised, in fact that Bismarck follows Beaconsfield on the Euphrates as well as in Egypt, and that Gladstone is nowhere.

When will our leaders on both sides learn that it is best to speak out, to say what we want and mean to have, to avow what everybody knows, and then at once to disavow double-dealing, and to deprecate hostility? If an example of plain clear speech were wanted, it is supplied on the instant, in an analogous case, by an American statesman, Mr. Secretary Blaine, on the subject of the neutralisation of the Panama Canal. Cannot we take heart of grace and imitate the straightforwardness of, so to speak, our own political great grandchildren in America? And what does Mr. Blaine say? "In the opinion of the President of the United States, this guarantee (treaty of Columbia, 1829) does not require reinforcement, accession, or assent, from any other power," and further, the President wishes it to be distinctly understood, that it is not the intention of the United States to interfere in any commercial enterprise in which foreigners are engaged, but America will insist upon the right to take all needful precautions against the possibility of the Isthmus transit being in any event used offensively against her interests upon land or sea.

It is questionable whether the recent despatch of Lord Granville to Sir Edward Malet makes matters any better, so long as our statesmen fail to grasp as a unity the whole policy of our communications with the East, of which the Euphrates Valley Railway is one part and the Suez Canal another. If our passage of the Isthmus be denied, it must come to war, and if so, it is best understood beforehand that war may be prevented. For the present, the keystone of our arch of empire is built upon that isthmus, and we shall look to its foundations. "Neutralisation," so often suggested, won't do, and for two reasons. First, it would do us no good; it would be a Roland without an Oliver. It can give us nothing we have not already. Against our adversaries, Aden and Perim have already neutralised the Red Sea, and hostile armaments would have to settle accounts with them before either contraband of war or ironclads could pass that way. The situation which should find a Russian ironclad looking under the guns of these fortresses for her "contraband of war" consorts would be "quite too utter" a paraphrase of the polite inquiry,

"Tell me, gentle shepherd, Have you seen, have you seen, My Flora pass this way?"

But, secondly, neutralisation will not do because Russian arms and rails are already hard by Herat, not three hundred miles from that city, whilst our own basis, in case of a stoppage of the canal, would be Woolwich. Think of that! and reflect that in ordinary times Russia is supposed to have 150,000 men on the Caspian coasts, and that the Afghan despatches proved her actual offer of 33,000 to the Amer to be supplied from Tashkend, before the last crisis. If we won't give Herat to Persia, and ally ourselves with Persia, and if we can't neutralise the enemies' depôts at Tashkend, and Ashourada on the Caspian, surely we should ensure the canal; and all the Beaconsfield policy tended to this. In 1871 and 1872 at the Euphrates Railway Parliamentary Committee, and they reported favourably of the scheme—as a paying enterprise—on the score of the policy of possessing another, an alternative route, because troops could be concentrated from Malta and from India at any point on the line; because order, commerce, and fixed institutions at least of justice and social stability, would spring into life along all the route; because it would prevent Indian famines, and carry our mails, and our armies, keeping them out of the tropics, and if necessary, bearing them on only or chiefly during the cool night season. All these matters, and a thousand others, were either reported on by the Committee, or proved by scores of witnesses from among the world's experts, and on from those years to the days of the Berlin Treaty, of course all high class statesmen were aware of the fact. Disraeli, especially could not avoid meeting and conversing with some of the most prominent witnesses in society and in political reunions. Of the above assertions we shall in succeeding articles adduce abundant evidence by verbatim or compressed quotations from the Euphrates railway blue books. We proceed to close the present one with a résumé of our actual situation in Egypt, and of the Anglo-French dawdling that brought Bismarck on the scene.

The substance of the last six or seven years of Egyptian history may be summed up in one sentence. England had a chance, a fair chance, a chance offered her by Egypt, of obtaining virtual control over Egypt; she refused it, very much, perhaps mostly, through Earl Derby's anti-imperialistic influence. She then shared it with France; the two have lately admitted the influence of Germany, and now Lord Granville thinks it may be best to revert to the supremacy of the Porte as the best guarantee of Egyptian neutrality. That, however, might lead, as the *Saturday Review* suggests, to a new danger, for the Porte now hopes "to make the supremacy of the Sultan, not the one supremacy of a political superior, but of a religious chief," and to enrol Egypt into the great army of the Caliph. Thus we are suppliants for neutrality where we had the offer of supremacy, and we have brought in a European syndicate where we might have secured an English policy. In 1876 the Khedive, apparently on the verge of bankruptcy, concluded an arrangement with his European creditors, as represented by Mr. Gioschen and M. Joubert, in accordance with which he consolidated his debts, and pledged himself to

pay an annual sum as interest and sinking fund, which may be stated in round numbers as 7 per cent. upon a capital of a hundred millions. During the thirteen years of his reign, the Khedive had possessed himself of one-fifth (one million acres) of the whole cultivated soil of Egypt, had farmed it by a ruinous process of forced labour, and established a gigantic monopoly supported by measures absolutely fatal to the industrial development of the country. He had become not only an autocrat, but a monster landowner, trader, and speculator; in fact, in a country where land culture is the one staple trade, he took away all security for its cultivation. Before a year had elapsed from the first, the Khedive proposed a second Commission of inquiry, but wished it to be directed, not to the causes of Egyptian embarrassments, but merely to the capabilities of Egyptian revenue. The French Government, instigated by the *Crédit Foncier*, with its £6,000,000 of unified stock, demanded a comprehensive investigation, and France and England virtually put the Khedive on trial in his own country, rejecting an Egyptian president, and virtually nominating Mr. Rivers Wilson. This Commission met in March, 1878, and in four months had come to the conclusion that the sole alternative to Egyptian bankruptcy was the surrender by the Khedive of his enormous estates. The Commission would naturally have gone on to suggest or to formulate the necessary arrangements for the Khedive's liquidation, when by one of the strangest freaks of even Oriental statecraft, the Khedive suddenly demanded the formation of a ministry, with the liberal Nubar Pasha at its head, and the portfolio of finance in the hands of Mr. Rivers Wilson, and issued a proclamation of the advent of constitutional rule. Later on, at a selected moment, the Khedive came forward as "champion of his people" against the interference and oppression of their foreign creditors, and the corner-stone of the Anglo-French Ministry was knocked out with the dismissal of the constitutional Nubar Pasha. In an official note addressed to the Khedive at this juncture consenting to the Khedive's dismissal of his own minister, England and France further assumed sovereign functions by insisting that henceforward their representatives in the Ministry must have a distinct right of joint veto, and that the Khedive must not be present at the ministerial councils. Within two months of Ismail Pasha's solemn engagement to abide by these conditions, the Anglo-French Ministers were contemptuously dismissed and France proposed, in conjunction with England, to despatch an armed force in the event of the Khedive's refusing to reinstate them. England declined, and strong despatches were substituted for strong measures. The Khedive and the clique of pashas who had supported him were in *excelesis*. Nubar and Riaz Pashas were sent into exile, the Fellahs were subjected to fresh exactions, and money was raised in any way, and at any price. France again would have acted, but England again declined. Cairo was bombarded with despatches from London, and naturally the Khedive at last issued a decree by which he proposed to regulate the liabilities of Egypt according to his own free will and pleasure. Processions of protest recommenced from London and Paris. The Porte offered to depose the Khedive. Nothing was done. Suddenly it seemed good to Prince Bismarck that this foolery should cease, and the German consul at Cairo received instructions to inform the Khedive that his government considered the decrees of April 22nd null and void!

This course, considering especially the very small interests of German citizens, or of Germany, in Egyptian affairs, stung England and France into action, and the Sultan's offer to depose the Khedive was accepted, whereupon the whole phantasmagoria of "national party, Egyptian nationality, popular rising, resistance to death," and other theatrical properties, vanished whence they came.

Let us recapitulate. We wish to be absolutely fair. The great chance for an Egyptian protectorate occurred and was lost, not under the present, but under the late Government. The Suez shares were bought in 1875, but almost before the monies were paid, the Khedive wanted more, and as a preliminary to a further loan, asked, as we have seen, for investigation into his finances, and was prepared as consideration, to accept an English protectorate. France was then discredited, our Abyssinian and Ashantee expeditions had raised our prestige in the East, and England seemed to be the one power able and willing to take possession of the Delta. Already, in 1868, Ismail had obtained the title of Khedive or King, and the right of descent of the throne to his direct heirs. In 1873 he had obtained the right of concluding treaties directly with foreign powers, of having vessels of war, and of levying troops. In 1875, he feared annexation by England, whilst he rejoiced in his independence of the Porte, and believed that an English protectorate would have secured to himself and descendants a perpetuity of sovereign power. Earl Beaconsfield, no doubt, contemplated some effectual arrangement. Why was it not carried out? Because Egypt was found to be bankrupt, and that strengthened the hands of Lord Derby and others, who, on political grounds also, were opposed to the scheme of an English protectorate. Mr. Gladstone has talked of an insane convention, and discouraged the Euphrates railway scheme. Lord Derby, no doubt, talked of an insane protectorate, and we are still without guarantees for the isthmus; and so, as regards English interests, Bismarck on the Euphrates may be as bad, but not much worse, than a Derby on the Nile.

M. GAMBETTA.

A Paris correspondent telegraphs concerning the continued silence of M. Gambetta, that it is attracting much attention, and should the prorogation take place without his speaking out and stating fully his views as to home and foreign policy, his prestige will sustain a blow, all the heavier that is self-inflicted. The opposition against him is growing apace. His old enemy who turned him out of office in 1871, M. Jules Simon, is understood to have bought the *Gambetta* to fight him in the press. M. Paul Bert's appointment to the Department of Public Worship has made many who looked up to him, and were disposed to trust him, bitter enemies. He already feels the effect of this in the difficulty he experiences to fill up important embassies. A play might be made out of the efforts made to find a suitable ambassador to Russia. General Chanzy has been entreated over and over again to withdraw his resignation, and a permanent functionary of the Foreign Office is to be sent to Berlin. Italy has no ambassador here, and seems in no hurry to send one, and those who know the Papal Nuncio are aware of the fact that he has applied to the Pope to know whether he should not ask for his passport. As to England, there is an idea in official circles that if a Treaty of Commerce be concluded she will once more become "our good ally." But the uneasiness felt here arises from the silence of M. Gambetta. He is not unused to public speaking, and his silence at a time when it would be important for him to speak out, is regarded as extraordinary and suspicious.

THE GARDEN.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

Referring again to the important question of pruning fruit trees. There are certain general principles that underlie the whole business of gardening, which, though they may impinge with greater force on some points of practice than others, yet more or less have a bearing upon all we do. If we firmly grasp the physiological fact that the

Leaves are the Lungs of the Tree, through which it not only breathes, but also imbibes moisture and other food in a gaseous form, we should leave the first lesson, that not only every pruner should know, but every man that is employed in a garden whether for pleasure or profit. If the leaves were constantly picked off a plant, debility would set in, and death would follow. Everything, therefore, depending upon the leaves, it is plain they should be our first consideration. Now most of us know something of the action of sunshine, and the effect the motion of the air has upon vegetable growth—how, without the waving motion furnished by its circulation, the leaves would be weak and puny, and the buds which are nurtured by them would be small and not fertile. Hence, therefore, after we have put our trees into the shape we intend them to assume, which can be done by cutting to a bud pointing in the direction we wish the branches to grow, the most important part of the pruner's work is to so regulate the growth of the tree that it can assimilate every part of it, and the air circulate freely among its branches. Now we know, or if we don't know observation will soon teach us, that one good healthy leaf produced under the conditions I have named is of more value in bringing forth a plump fertile bud than three or four weakly things that from their overcrowded condition cannot produce or organise vigorous blossoms. The whole rationale of the pruner's art, if it be an art, is to so clothe the trees with leaves that each can have its fair share of light and sunshine. This being so, the proper time to prune is in summer, and then, so far as regards

Trained Trees,

all that is required now is to smooth or polish the snags, cut off a dead spur, or shorten a leader when the tree has filled its allotted space.

Orchard Trees

that merely require thinning should be done now, and the wounds smoothed over with a sharp knife; and one of the first lessons the pruner should learn is to keep his knife, or whatever instrument he uses, sharp, so as to make a clean cut at an acute angle across the branch, not a couple of inches long, as I have sometimes seen inexperienced people do. Always keep in mind, too, in pruning, that there is as much difference in the growth and constitution of trees as there is in the human beings we pass in our daily walks, and that to treat all alike blindly will lead to error and vexation. There has, unfortunately, been too much rule-of-thumb-work among the professors of gardening, and the business as an art has not reached the position it might have done; in consequence thereof, planting of all kinds should have been pushed on vigorously during the late fine weather, as trees always thrive better when the soil is partially dry and crumbly in among the roots. On dry soils it is a common practice to puddle or water the plants, but at this season when we are so close to the autumn rains, it is hardly necessary, except under special circumstances, such as moving large specimen evergreens, carrying a large breadth of foliage. In some gardens

The Chrysanthemums

are now very bright and showy. The dwarf pompon, or daisy-flowered varieties are excellent border plants, and in many places are now brightening up town gardens. They require but little skill to grow, only give them the space enough, good soil, and plenty of water during the growing season, and they will bloom with more certainty than many plants used for autumn decorations, in fact, there is no substitute for them, although, unfortunately, severe frost does, when it visits us early in the autumn, spoil the flowers. They may be grown during the summer in some retired spot in the kitchen or reserve garden, and be taken up with balls of earth and planted in prominent positions when the other flowers are faded and gone in October. The tall, large-flowered varieties are excellent for planting against a low wall, and in such a position they can easily be sheltered if frost sets in early. Once upon a time I came upon a novel scene in the good old city of Norwich. It was a great many years ago, but it's Norwiche still lingers in my mind. It was a back yard in a street of small houses. A border ran round the outside close to the wall, some eighteen inches wide, and in this chrysanthemums were planted of the tall large-flowered kinds, and were carefully trained to the wall's surface. I remember we had some frost, and the same kind of flowers in open gardens were much injured; but here, in a shoemaker's backyard, was a show of chrysanthemums fit for a prince's garden. What was not loving care do? I well recollect being in an upper chamber of his dwelling. There was a charming lot of Norwich canaries, for which the old city is still famous, and so between his birds and flowers the shoemaker was a happy man. I referred in a previous article to the advantage of possessing a specially prepared border, made deep and dry, with a considerable inclination to the south, for planting with early vegetables. A sowing of

Early Peas

might now be made, planting either Blue Peter, which is a very dwarf variety, or Sutton's ringleader, which will grow from three to four feet high; William the First is also an excellent kind for sowing now, as it is both hardy and prolific, though not quite so early as the ringleaders. To prevent mice taking the peas, damp them slightly in a basin, and sprinkle enough red lead on them to coat them over. It will not injure the peas, and will effectually keep the mice off. Another plan and often effectual, is to sprinkle some coal ashes, enough to cover the soil, over the rows of peas, immediately after the peas are planted. As to the decoration of small conservatories, of the kind commonly attached to villa residences, there is no class of plants more useful in winter than

Zonale Pelargoniums,

especially when grown in pots of moderate size, and young plants are propagated every spring, well attended to in summer, and all flowers picked off till they are required in autumn or winter. The following are a few good varieties for the purpose—H. Jacoby, Lizzie Brooks, Belle of Surrey, Samuel Holden, Dr. Denny, David Thompson, Mrs. Leavers, Circulator, Hannas, Mr. Collett, Miss Gladstone, Lady Sheffield, and Venus. ADAM.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

In the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice on Tuesday, the defendants who had been convicted of corrupt practices at the Macclesfield and Sandwich elections appeared to receive the judgment of the court. Mr. Justice Denman, in passing sentence, addressed the defendants at length. He said that the late general election it was proved that an amount of corruption had prevailed in the constituencies of this kingdom which was wholly disgraceful to the whole community. The press was teeming with disclosures sickening in their details, and everybody was expressing surprise at the discovery which it seems was a new one, though not at all, I am afraid new to those who had the management of elections. An apprehension was also expressed that the English character should have become so degraded, and that acts such as these should have been possible on the part of men who held a respectable station, and who had passed for honest men. That in a picture of the times that must, to a certain extent, operate on any tribunal that has to apportion punishment in cases of this kind. Again, the last general election was one that took place after a very great increase in the franchise, and a very large addition to the voting power of the country of many persons who were in situations that they were likely to be influenced for good or evil by men holding important positions, men of influence and wealth. It is obviously right, and indeed necessary, that in cases in which those voters, whom I have just alluded have been unfairly dealt with, when it has been corruptly attempted to do evil by good men in those stations—that persons who have so dealt with them should themselves be dealt with in such a manner as to indicate that the courts of this country, at all events, do not deal lightly with such an offence as

Bribery

or with any offence that has the effect of corrupting the poorer voters to whom the franchise has been entrusted for the good of the country. These general observations apply to every one of you, and I am afraid also to many men whose conduct was investigated after the last election, but who, partly in consequence of having made full disclosure to the commissioners, and partly from the reluctance of juries to convict, have escaped the position in which you unhappily find yourselves. I will now deal with these cases, and I can only say that we are about to abstain from passing on any one of you a more severe sentence than that which we feel to be the least sentence adequate to form an example to other persons in the same rank of life as you respectively occupy, such as is adequate to prevent them lending themselves to practices such as those of which you have been guilty. His lordship, in continuation, said he would take the cases in a different order to that in which they had been brought before them. The first two cases to which he would refer were those of John Frederick May and William Blair, and these cases had very much in common. Both persons had been found guilty of bribery and

Falsifying Election Accounts;

both were solicitors; and it was a melancholy thing that so many men with such characters as had been given to them, and holding such positions as they held at the time, should have committed the acts of which they were found guilty. It appeared that both these persons were election agents for candidates for Macclesfield. These gentlemen informed the commissioners and the judge upon the trial that they expressly stipulated that no illegal expenditure should take place, yet it appeared that sums of money to a very large extent were by May handed over to sub-agents for the purpose of bribery; and there was really no opinion on the part of any honest jury but to find him guilty of bribery; and not only that, but he was the superior agent who set the machinery of bribery at work through the sub-agents in the borough, who by doing out sums of money might influence voters. He also being a person who had a duty as a solicitor and also as a candidate's agent to obey the law by making a true return of the election expenses, made in fact a false return, and then went to the candidates and made to them a return which was a totally different return, and tried to obtain from them money in payment of what he had caused to be distributed in bribery. This made the case very serious indeed. Mr. May had received the character of being

An Excellent Solicitor

and a useful and reliable public man; but, as the Attorney-General had observed, such matters were extremely difficult for the courts to deal with. Could it be said that the court was bound to look upon the defendant as an honourable man, to the extent of being an honourable man and a gentleman to all intents and purposes, when he had been found guilty of dishonest practices of which a gentleman would be incapable? The defendant had also been strongly recommended to mercy by the jury; and it was impossible to look otherwise than with respect upon the jury who had done their duty in this case, and that against a good deal of pressure, for if they had acquitted the defendant at that trial it was perfectly possible that, with such a constituency as existed at Macclesfield, they would have gone away amidst roars of applause. Their recommendation was entitled to weight, but it could not go far. The court had come to the conclusion that it was not desirable to inflict any fine. They could see no reason for treating bribers in any other way than other misdemeanants of a bad character. It was the policy of the law not to palliate offences by dealing with men in a particular way, simply because they had held positions of influence, and a show of tenderness to them because they had occupied the station of gentlemen. The sentences which they were about to pass would therefore be imprisonment as ordinary misdemeanants. The sentence, therefore, must be one of long duration and most severe—that sentence being that each of them, May and Blair, should be imprisoned for nine calendar months; James Barber Edwards, a solicitor and a person of great influence in the neighbourhood of Sandwich and Deal, where he committed the offence of bribery, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment; Samuel Old, who was not a solicitor, but a town councillor of his borough and a man of considerable influence, and the other prisoners were sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment.

The friends of Mr. Edwards proposed to petition the Home Secretary to lessen the sentence or impose a fine, on the ground that this was the first time for twenty years the defendant had taken any part in the election; that hitherto he had borne an irreproachable character; and that he is now 63 years of age. They will further urge that his share in the bribery was simply to hand over the money given to him by an agent.—A Stockport telegram says the severity of the sentence passed on Messrs. May and Blair, solicitors, of Macclesfield, who are both well known in that part of Cheshire, has created considerable surprise and sensation in Stockport. A much shorter term of imprisonment as first-class misdemeanants was expected. Already a petition for commutation of sentence is talked of.

A DANGEROUS APOLOGY.

A soldier named Karraghan was charged at the Shire-hall, in Bedford, on Tuesday morning, with leaving a train "at a place not appointed by the Midland Railway Company." The facts, which were very singular, were as follows.—The defendant was travelling from Scotland to London, and between Wellingborough and Kettering was in a compartment occupied by a gentleman and a lady. The soldier spoke to the lady, and the latter did not like it so at the next station she went into another carriage. When the train had again started, the gentleman remonstrated with the soldier, whereupon he said he would apologise to her. Without any warning he jumped out of the carriage window, walked along the footboard until he reached the lady, and having apologised, it was presumed, got back again. The train was travelling at full speed at the time, and it was a mystery how the man got back safely.—The magistrate let him off with a small fine and a caution.

At a meeting held at Whitchy on Tuesday, in connection with the erection of a new church, it was announced that a letter had been received from Sir Geo. Elliot Bart., M.P., stating that he was prepared to give £25,000 and the site for the church (which together he estimated to represent nearly £50,000) as soon as the plans have been approved and the requisite funds for the completion of the work raised.

The census bulletin on this branch of industry, which has just been issued, is of a very interesting nature. The tobacco product in the United States is divided into classes, types, and grades, the basis of a class being its adaptation to any specific purpose; of a type, to certain qualities or properties in the leaf, such as colour, strength, elasticity, body, or flavour. It also applies to the method of curing, such as sun, air, or fire curing. Grades represent the different qualities of a type, and vary much in the several types. The classification of American tobacco is threefold—viz., domestic cigar tobacco and "smokers' " chewing tobacco; export tobacco. The domestic tobacco trade comprises the various kinds of seed-leaf of Connecticut, New England, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Florida, and Ohio, as well as the sorts known as White Burley "lugs," fine-fibred wrappers, Indiana kite-foot, and American-grown Havannah. In the chewing class are included the fine-cut and plug fillers, principally of the White Burley type from Kentucky, while under the head of export tobacco, are the Virginian birdseye cutting leaf, and the spinning fillers or shag. It is curious to notice how each market for export tobacco differs in its requirements. The "closed" markets, or those in which the tobacco trade is a monopoly of the government, are France, Italy, Austria and Spain. The French "Régie" are supplied by wrappers, binders, and fillers from Kentucky, Maryland, and Ohio; the Italian Régie from Kentucky and Virginia; the Austrian Régie by "strips" from the same States; and the Spanish Régie by common "lugs." The open markets are Germany, to which are sent the tobacco known as German saucer and spinners, Ohio and Maryland spangled, cigar wrappers and "smokers' " fat lugs; Switzerland which is supplied with Virginian or Western wrappers and fillers; Holland, with Dutch saucer (a mottled Virginia, Kentucky, or Tennessee leaf); Belgium, with Belgian cutter (a light, yellowish-brown leaf, well fired); Norway and Sweden, with heavy types, mainly used for spinning and "saneing." Kentucky, which stands first of all the States for production, the annual produce being 171,120,758 lbs., gains her chief profits from the White Burley and yellow wrapper; Illinois, from the production of the seed-leaf; Missouri, from sweet fillers and White Burley; Virginia, from yellow wrappers, bright "smokers' " sun, air, and fire-cured fillers. Decidedly the most prosperous tobacco States are those which grow types suitable for domestic consumption, while those which grow it mainly for exportation stand low in the scale, the margin of profit under the latter being reduced very low. According to the researches of Dr. Gideon Moore, the largest amount of nicotine is contained in the Virginian heavily manured cigarette (5.81 per cent.), while the New York domestic Havannah has 4.72, the New York domestic Havannah but 2.23, the Connecticut seed-leaf 1.72, while the smallest amount of all is found in the little Dutch tobacco of the Miami Valley, .063. Profits in the culture of tobacco have been in direct proportion—first, to its suitability for domestic consumption; and, secondly, to the amount of fertilization practiced by the growers in its cultivation. This is true in every case, except the yellow tobacco districts of North Carolina and Virginia, where poverty in the soil is a condition of success in the production of quality.

THE PROGRESS OF CONSERVATISM.

"Has Conservatism increased in England since the last Reform Bill?" is the question at the head of a paper contributed to the current number of the *Fortnightly Review* by Mr. A. Frisby. By means of elaborate tables the writer supplies an answer in the affirmative. "While the Liberal voters," he says, "have increased 29 per cent. between 1863 and 1880, the Tory voters have increased no less than 38 per cent. in the same interval. Hence it is clear that Tory principles are increasing in a greater ratio than Liberal principles; and, indeed, we find that, taking a comprehensive view of the whole of the constituencies which were contested by Liberals and Tories in both 1863 and 1880, the percentage of Tory voters has increased from 43.3 to 47.9, and that this growth is due entirely to the rapid advance of Tory principles among the very large constituencies; for in the very small, the small, the moderate-sized, and the large constituencies, Liberal principles have made the more rapid relative advance. And, conversely, the percentage of Liberal voters has decreased from 55.7 to 54.1, and the decline of Liberal principles has been entirely in the very large constituencies, which Radicals have always claimed as strongholds, but which, as a matter of fact, seem likely to be the ground in which the Tories will henceforth make the greatest advance. And though the relatively smaller number of Liberal voters has returned an absolutely greater number of Liberal members, the consequent falling off in the number of the Tory members is not due in any way to a decline of Tory principles, but solely to the erratic working of our system of representation, which, on the next occasion, is more than likely to err in the reverse direction, and to give the Tories not only their legitimate increase, but also an artificial one. Indeed, as a matter of fact, in 1863, instead of there having been 173 Liberal members to 131 Tory members, there should have been only 169 Liberal members as compared with 135 Tory members; while in 1880, instead of there having been 190 Liberal members to 114 Tory members, there should have been only 164 Liberal members to as many as 140 Tory members."

WHO SPOKE THE TRUTH?

At Hammersmith Police-court, on Thursday, Inspector Jones, of the Criminal Investigation Department, attended with respect to a summons in which the ownership of a watch which formed the subject of a prosecution at the Middlesex Sessions had to be determined. Mr. Thomas Godrich, surgeon, of Fulham, charged a former assistant named Barnes with stealing a gold watch belonging to Miss Godrich, his niece, but at the trial he was acquitted. Miss Godrich now stated that she handed the watch to the prisoner to have a glass put in it, but he never returned it. She had known him only a few hours, and had never seen him before. She knew that he had been in the army, and she thought he was on furlough. She was not aware that he had deserted. She lived in Hampshire, and was not in France at the time. If her uncle stated that she was in France, it was untrue. She never heard that Barnes was committed for trial until she read a report of the case in the newspapers. No one was present at the time she handed the watch to the prisoner. If her uncle stated that he was present, it was untrue. A warder attended with Barnes, who had been brought up from prison under an order of the Home Secretary. He (Barnes) said he was found not guilty of stealing the watch, but he was convicted in another case, and sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Mr. Paget asked him if he claimed the watch. The witness said he did not. A claim was then entered on behalf of the pawnbroker, who held the watch for £3, the amount for which it was pledged. Mr. Paget said the article was one which Barnes might fairly possess, and therefore there was no want of caution in the pawnbroker in receiving it. He made an order for the watch to be delivered up to Miss Godrich on the payment of £3. He might state that when Mr. Godrich prosecuted Barnes he said that his niece was in France and out of the jurisdiction of the Court, and was present when the watch was handed to him. He supposed that evidence was not given at the sessions, which might account for the acquittal of the man. Barnes was then removed in the custody of the warder.

ANNOYANCE AND FORGERY.

At the Mansion House Police-court on Thursday, the case of Agnes Stubbins, charged with annoying Mr. George Joseph Sharp, and also with forging and uttering a cheque for £5, again came before Alderman Sir Robert Carden for investigation. The case has been several times before the Court, and on two occasions the prisoner was too ill to appear. Mr. Kitch explained that the prosecutor did not wish to press the case vindictively, his only object being to obtain protection. He offered no evidence as to the charge of forgery. Replying to the Alderman, the prisoner promised she would not annoy Mr. Sharp in future. Sir Robert Carden decided to bind her over in her own recognisances in the sum of £20 to keep the peace, and to be of good behaviour. The effect of that would be that if she broke the peace by causing any annoyance to the prosecutor again she would be given in charge and would have to pay the money or go to prison till it was paid. He then discharged her.

DRUNKEN LADIES.

At the Brighton Police-court, on Thursday, Mrs. Cissy Wilton, of 12, King-street, St. James's, London, and Mrs. Elizabeth Maitland, her sister, were summoned for being drunk and using obscene language in a carriage upon the Brighton Railway. The defendants, who did not appear, were represented by a solicitor, who on their behalf pleaded guilty. He stated that the ladies had been dining pretty freely, and afterwards started from Victoria on a journey to Brighton. They admitted that they were drunk when a portion of the journey had been completed, and that when the train stopped at Preston Park they abused the guard and ticket collector, refusing to give up their tickets because they had not completed the journey. Mr. Ellis, from the office of the solicitors to the company, stated that the defendants were first found quarrelling with each other when the train stopped at Redhill. Before the train reached Haywards Heath they commenced to fight, and one of them used the electric communicator to stop the train. They were pulled up at Haywards Heath station, where the sisters were placed in separate carriages, and at Preston Park and Brighton each of them used most obscene language. The company did not wish to press the charge vindictively, but as the defendants were ladies of some position and ought to have known how to conduct themselves, he should not ask the bench to impose such a low fine as he should under ordinary circumstances. A fine of 20s. and costs was inflicted.

THE WAGES QUESTION.—A mass meeting of the South Yorkshire colliers was held at Barnsley on Thursday evening to consider the wages question. Restriction of output was advocated, and resolutions were passed affirming the necessity of unity of action to secure an advance of wages, and pledging the men to carry out the eight hours' principle. It was stated by one of the officials that at a recent council meeting of miners there was a feeling to at once demand an advance, but that the majority were in favour of testing the general feeling by a series of meetings.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO WORKMEN.—A serious accident occurred on Thursday, in Belfast, in connection with the extensive iron shipbuilding works of Harland and Wolff. A numerous body of workmen engaged on the new steam ship *Shannon*, of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, were leaving for dinner, when a large gangway alongside of the vessel gave way, and some forty or fifty men were precipitated from a height of about thirty feet. Some fell into the dock, others into the large iron tank floating alongside the ship. Seven of the men had to be removed to the Royal Hospital, seriously injured.

A STORY OF A SHIPWRECK.

On Thursday, Mr. Lewis J. Ward, the actor, a member of the ill-fated dramatic company who were journeying to Bombay on board the *Clan Macduff*, arrived at his home in Birmingham, and gave the following interesting supplemental details concerning the painful catastrophe:—A peculiarly distressing phase of the disaster is that the actress, Miss Ada Lester, the daughter of a London wine merchant, was seen sitting up in the small boat in which she left the vessel, having been in this perilous position she had drifted to within a couple of miles of shore, but the sea was running so high that it was impossible to render her any assistance from land. The statement is incorrect that Miss Lester was lashed to the boat. When found upon the rocks her body was still warm, and she held in her death-grip a large fragment of the broken boat. The lady's sister, who also lost her life in this dreadful shipwreck, was not a professional actress, but being in delicate health was recommended a sea voyage by her physician, and her father accompanied her. All three were drowned. Mr. Ward mentions as a curious coincidence that the last piece the company appeared in before embarking for Bombay was the "Tempest." Mr. Ward has with him a photograph of the mutilated remains of the stage manager of the company, Mr. J. Turner, washed ashore at Bandon, the day after the shipwreck. The photo was taken for the purpose of identification, and it is a noteworthy fact that the finger upon which was a valuable ring is missing. Both Mr. Turner and his wife were drowned, and it seems that before the storm had lashed itself into its greatest fury, Mrs. Turner had a presentiment that neither she nor her husband would escape. On entering the cabin some time before the order was given to launch the boat, Mr. Ward found Mrs. Turner on her knees, imploring one of the women to see if something could be done for her children. It is satisfactory that already a very handsome subscription has been raised for this object, and there is little doubt that enough will be raised to provide for the unfortunate orphans. It has never yet been mentioned that the first morning at sea, when off Holyhead, while the cabin passengers were at breakfast, a huge wave dashed over the vessel, forced open the skylight, and deluged the compartment with water. Mr. Ward prefers not to express any opinion as to the seaworthiness of the vessel, but says that before embarking at Liverpool he made a cursory examination of her, and was rather impressed than otherwise with her general appearance. He does not think the captain was precipitate in the orders he gave for the lowering of the boats, as there were indications that the vessel was going down every minute. To add to the horrors of the disaster, which the survivors were subjected, they were forced in their confusion to leave the vessel without any provisions during the twenty hours they were tossed about in their tiny craft. All they had to sustain their strength was a small bottle of brandy, which Mr. Ward threw down as he leaped from the vessel. This gentleman gives a very graphic description of their long suspense and imminent peril. After leaving the ill-fated steamer, during the dreary vigils of the night, when every eye was on the look out for a passing ship, there was seen at frequent intervals a glimmering light, which they too hopefully proclaimed to be signals from their approaching rescuers, but gradually it faded, and at last it was too apparent that what had died out again, until it was too apparent that what had attracted their notice was only a phosphorescent gleam of the storm-tossed sea. The few survivors have all suffered more or less from the shock to their nervous system. The aggregate value of the wardrobe lost by the theatrical company alone amounts to between £2,000 and £3,000. For this serious loss the survivors expect to be compensated by the steamship company, who have already been treated with on the subject.

FATAL COLLISION ON THE THAMES.—A collision, attended, it is feared, with loss of life, has occurred near Gravesend, between the steam yacht *Lucerne*, belonging to Mr. Fred Thompson, of the Leicesters, Brookwood, Hants, and the Australian clipper *Dundee*. The *Lucerne* sank, but the captain swam ashore. He states that there were seven persons on board, including two Portuguese gentlemen, and they are believed to be drowned.

A DRUNK BRIDEGROOM.—On Thursday morning, at Wingham parish church, a well-to-do couple, with their friends, attended for the purpose of being married. Shortly after the commencement of the service it was discovered that the bridegroom was in a condition of inebriety, whereupon the clergyman declined to proceed further, and quitted the altar. He, however, was induced by the bride's friends to return. On requesting the man to hold the customary row, the bridegroom rudely declined to do so, and the clergyman having declared that he could not continue the ceremony, hastily snatched up his hat and left the church. The marriage, consequently, was not solemnised.

INNER CIRCLE RAILWAY.—A heavy compensation claim in respect of property taken for the completion of the Inner Circle Railway and for the City street improvements came before the Recorder of London, on Wednesday. The claimant was Mr. C. J. C. Hoffmann, ship and insurance broker, and the defendants the Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railway Company (City Lines Extension) Joint Committee. The question to be decided was the freehold value of the claimant's premises, No. 70, Great Tower-street, City, and the amount of injury that would be done to his business by removal. After the jury had viewed the premises, a consultation took place between the counsel, with the result that it was agreed to take a verdict for £10,000, three months' notice to be given before taking possession.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, presiding at the anniversary of the London Scottish Corporation, on Wednesday, said the Princess Helene, with pleasure and interest the opportunity of making a closer acquaintance than she already had with Britain and the British people.

A farmer, named Edward Trickett, residing near Whitechurch, was, on Wednesday morning, fined 40s. and costs, or two months' imprisonment, for selling adulterated with 30 per cent. of water. He had supplied the milk to the Royal Infirmary.

John William Raynor, aged 18, a joiner's apprentice, was on Thursday committed for trial at Bury Police-court on a charge of manslaughter. Prisoner and a labourer named Thomas Wyatt quarrelled in a house at Radcliffe, and Wyatt invited the prisoner into the street to "have it out." Wyatt was the aggressor, and struck the prisoner, who put Wyatt over the wall, when he rolled down the slope into the river Irwell and was drowned.

The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, being desirous of raising a memorial to John Fisher, who, 300 years ago, made bequests to the company and to the poor of the parish, have commissioned Mr. W. G. Taylor, of Berners-street, to execute a painted window, with the subject of "The Good Samaritan," to be placed in St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street, as a companion to the window recently erected in memory of the late Prebendary Auriol.

Major-General Higginson, C.B., commanding the Home District, in distributing the prizes of the 2nd London Rifles, at the Guildhall, on Wednesday night, said that the events of the past Volunteer year were important, not only because of the increase of numbers and efficiency, and the countenance the force had received from their Sovereign, but also because there could be no doubt whatever that it was in contemplation by the Secretary of State for War to make certain modifications in the Army organisation in which the Volunteers would take an important part.

Dr. Vincent Richards, a well-known authority on Indian poisonous snakes, has commenced a series of experiments to test the efficacy in cobra poisoning of Dr. Lacerda's plan of injecting permanganate of potash. He states that the experiments, although not absolutely conclusive, have yet, so far as they have gone, led to much more hopeful results than any previously instituted, and believes that the ground for hoping for a practical remedy has at last been found. The progress of Dr. Richards's experiments will be watched with much interest. —*Homeward Mail.*

BURNT TO DEATH.

On Wednesday, Mr. Collier held an inquiry at the Training Hospital, touching the death of Lucy Caton, aged 16 months, who was burnt to death on Thursday week. —Mrs. Emily Caton, 43, Dagon-road, West-green, said the deceased was her daughter. On Thursday morning she had occasion to go upstairs, leaving her three children in a room below. There was a fire in the room, but no guard was in front of it. Whilst upstairs she heard screams, and on running downstairs found the deceased in flames. She at once put the fire out, and the child was very much burned she sent for a doctor. Her own impression was that the eldest child, who was only three years of age, must have been playing with some sticks which were lying on top of the grate, and set fire to the deceased. —The coroner said it was a great pity the witness did not have a guard in front of her fire-place, for if she had had one on this occasion the accident would not have occurred. He advised her to at once obtain a fire-guard; and if that was generally adopted, a number of these cases would never occur. Mr. Newsome, house surgeon at the Training Hospital, Tottenham, said the deceased was fearfully burned about the neck and arms, and the cause of death was shock to the system consequent on the burns. —A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.

FORESTERS DISAFFORESTED.

Mr. S. Shawcross, the permanent secretary of the Ancient Order of Foresters, who is at present engaged with the executive council in arranging for the High Court meeting at Weymouth, in August next, made a remarkable statement at a dinner just given to him in that town. In order to show how important the duties of the executive council now were, he stated that at their meeting last week they would not dare to have attempted 50 years ago. For a number of years, and under a former Act of Parliament, their courts were not recognised as branches of the society, there being no legal tie between them. By the passing of another Act, in 1875, the case was altered, and for the first time the executive council had control over the branches, being able to sue them if there was any inclination not to discharge their liabilities. There were now about 250 of these branches, with 600,000 members, most of whom had gone through certain formalities so as to become legal branches. At the High Court meeting in Dublin a law was passed that all the branches should become legal ones by the end of last year, and many did so; but as there were still others which had not, the High Court meeting at Northampton decided that the outstanding ones must be served unless they took the necessary steps, and last week the executive council severed 69 of these branches, numbering about 8,000 members. The Order could well afford to part with that number, or even 18,000, as all the other members were true and loyal. He had lived to see many members come back, and had no doubt that in the course of a few weeks the 8,000 members who had been severed from the Order would return.

LORD SALISBURY AND HIS TENANT.—The Marquis of Salisbury has given notice to the occupiers of farms on his estate that he remits the whole of the half-year's rent due at Michaelmas last.

FIRE IN GLASGOW.—On Wednesday morning a destructive fire occurred at Sharp's bedding factory, in Elgin-street and Campbellfield-street, Glasgow, completely destroying the building, which was three storeys high, and had a frontage of 150 feet. Upwards of sixty persons will be thrown out of employment by the fire, and the damage is estimated at £8,000.

DRUNKENNESS IN RUSSIA.—A correspondent telegraphs from St. Petersburg, on Thursday:—"I hear on good authority that the recommendation of the commission which has been discussing the question of suppressing drunkenness by closing a large number of liquor shops throughout the empire will not be adopted. It is calculated that it would involve a yearly loss of fifty millions to the revenue, which circumstance, in view of the large deficit in the last fiscal year and the apprehended serious deficit next year, has to be considered."

A BANKRUPT Q.C.—In the London Court of Bankruptcy on Wednesday, there was held a first meeting under the bankruptcy of Mr. Leofric Temple, Q.C., of Queen's Bench-walk, against whose administration was recently made up on the petition of Messrs. David Hyam and Co., of Houndsditch, fancy goods importers. A statement of his affairs was furnished, showing liabilities of £1,683 10s. and assets £22. Mr. J. Spyer, accountant, was appointed trustee, together with a committee of inspection.

THE WOODLEY MURDERER.—Mr. Lloyd, the principal warder in charge of the prisoners in Chester Castle, on Thursday received a royal warrant commuting the sentence of death passed on William Osman, copper-smith, Birmingham, at the recent Chester Assizes, for the murder of his wife at Woodley, near Stockport, to penal servitude for life. The prisoner will be removed to a convict establishment almost immediately.

WHITE SLAVES.—Mr. Littler, Q.C., has forwarded for publication the following extracts from a letter from Constantinople:—"The whole lot of boys have been recovered and sent. I put them on board myself, and they are perfectly comfortable. They had to be rigged out with clothes, and a little mattress and rug for each. The Foreign-office were wonderfully prompt. The boys tell some horrible stories, but you will find them all right when they arrive, and not the puny wretches you saw. They are beginning to pick up their English again. One little fellow actually has remembered the Lord's Prayer."

FARMERS' ALLIANCE FOR SCOTLAND.—Over 40,000 farmers from every part of Scotland were represented at a meeting which crowded the Music Hall at Aberdeen on Thursday afternoon. Seven resolutions were passed. They called for a general reduction of rents, for compensation for improvements, for the abolition of the laws of hypothec and of entail, and for other legislation in the interest of tenant-farmers. It was urged that the legislative changes required must be made applicable to existing leases. A Farmers' Alliance for Scotland was formed.

BITING A WOMAN'S NOSE OFF.—A farmer named Leopold Selby Rowland was on Tuesday, at Bewick, charged with biting off the nose of his aunt, Alice Morrison. Mrs. Hall, a neighbour, said that on Monday night she heard cries of Murder, and Rowland's aunt ran to her house for protection. Rowland seized her by the hair, and dragged her back. She escaped from him, and witness observed that her nose was bitten off. She picked the piece up and gave it to Dr. Mackay, who had dressed the wound. Rowland's aunt was unable to appear against him, and he was remanded.

WRECKERS.—At Thursday's Pilliheli Sessions a large number of persons, chiefly farmers, were charged at the instance of the Board of Trade, on whose behalf Mr. E. Prichard (Bangor) prosecuted, with taking wreckage from the steamship *Cyprian*, of Liverpool, which was recently lost on the Carnarvonshire coast. Mr. Lloyd Edwards, the chairman of the Bench, said he had been the recipient of a letter threatening him with most serious consequences should he adjudicate upon the cases. In the result, Richard Williams and Owen Jones, two farmers occupying large properties at Llanystyn, who gave false names and addresses, were each fined £10 and costs, four other defendants were fined £5 and costs, and a large number were mulcted in smaller penalties, the Bench intimating that in the case of any other depredations the offenders would be sent for trial at the quarter sessions.

HOMOPATHY VINDICATED.—Laura Lant, a young woman, about twenty-one years of age, was charged at the Chester Petty Sessions on Thursday with attempting to commit suicide on the 28th ult. The prisoner on Sunday evening last had some difference with her sweetheart. This seemed to have preyed upon her mind, as on the following day she obtained access to her master's surgery and procured some tropane, one of the strongest poisons known, for which there is supposed to be no antidote. She took a grain of this and afterwards a dose of chloroform. She became insensible, upon which her fellow servants communicated with her employer. He sent for another doctor, and they administered an emetic and also applied the stomach pump. In about two hours she was brought into a state of consciousness. It is supposed that the chloroform acted as an antidote to the other poison. The prisoner was remanded.

STABBING AFFRAY.

At Lambeth Police-court, on Thursday, Frank Field, 13, a gentleman-looking young man, as a clerk, was charged with cutting and wounding David Gibson by stabbing him with a knife in the left breast. Before the case was gone into, Inspector Wilson, the divisional man, who was seen first by Dr. Holdham, the divisional surgeon, whose certificate he produced, had since been admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital. —A police-constable said: About eight o'clock on Wednesday evening I was called to No. 5, Brixton-rise, and found some persons in the front garden. There was an altercation going on, but I do not know what it was about. The prosecutor was having high words with the father of the prisoner. The father, upon my coming up, asked me to get the name of the prosecutor, as he had been using obscene language towards him. The prosecutor then gave the name of Thomas Snow, New-cross-road, and then walked out of the garden to the roadway. I walked with him, and in about five minutes the prosecutor and I found him stabbed. I took off his clothing, and found a cut on the left side of the breast of his coat, and blood coming from it. I then found the cut penetrated through the coat, waistcoat, and two shirts, and there was a wound on the left breast. I said this man complains of having been stabbed by you. Prisoner said: "Yes, he threatened to do for me, and struck me on the hat. I stabbed him in self-defence." The prisoner then took a clasp-knife from his trousers pocket, and handed it to me. It is the one now produced. The prisoner said: "That is what I done it with." I took the prisoner to the Brixton station, where he was charged. —By Mr. Saunders: I could not ascertain what the altercation was about. The prisoner was sober, but the prosecutor was the worse for drink. Prosecutor gave the name of Gibson to the station, and said he was an engineer residing in Harlington-road. —By Mr. Fullagar: There was a crowd of about fifty persons when he went to the house. He could hear of no persons who witnessed the assault. —Inspector Wilson, W division, said: I took the charge and read it over to the prisoner, and asked him if he wished to make any statement. He said he did. He then made the following statement, which I took down in writing, and he signed it: "Yes, I did it in self-defence, as he previously threatened me as I would not fight as he wanted me to. He had struck me on the hat, when I struck out with the knife to evade a second blow. He had threatened me in a tram-car from Blackfriars to Brixton. Gibson then made this statement: 'I did not threaten the prisoner. Did strike him on the hat, but I can't say if he had stabbed me then or afterwards. Did not feel the effects of the stab for eight minutes after it.' —Mr. Fullagar said the prisoner was subjected to the grossest insults at the hands of the prosecutor. —Mr. Saunders said there must be a demand to see how the man progressed and for the attendance of the surgeons. He remanded the prisoner, and consented to take two bail in £50 for his appearance.

POACHING IN CHESHIRE.

Before the Altrincham magistrates, on Thursday, the three poachers, Hitchen, Willis, and Perrin, were charged with poaching on land of Colonel Legh, at High Legh, on 6th November, and at the same time and place shooting at, with intent to murder, Arthur Ford. —Mr. W. Cobbett, Manchester, defended the prisoners: —Mr. Hoskin prosecuted. —Arthur Ford said stones were thrown from the keepers' side. Witness was shot as he was rushing at Perrin. Witness carried stones, but did not use them. —Dr. Howlett spoke to Ford's lower jaw being shot away, and to his injuries generally. —Banks, a voluntary watcher, said he gave the revolver he had to the head keeper, Meach, and it was loaded in two chambers. Witness had a few stones, but did not throw them. —Thomas Owen, farmer, said he lent a wheelbarrow to two watchers for the purpose of fetching Jennings from a neighbouring field where he lay, and whither he had been dragged for some distance. Witness heard two reports just before Jennings was brought into the yard. He also found a lot of stones in the field which were not there on the previous day. —Dr. Wolsey said that by a further post-mortem examination he had found the bullet produced in the body of Jennings. —Arthur Cooke denied that he had ever said Percival fired at Jennings while the latter was lying on the ground. —A number of other witnesses were recalled, and denied that they three stones or heard more than three shots fired during the affray. Evidence was given showing that the poacher Perrin had received a gunshot wound in the right thigh. This closed the case, and a remand for a week was asked for and granted. The hearing of the charge of murder was also adjourned for a similar period, and Percival, charged with the murder of Jennings, was admitted to bail in sureties amounting to £1,000. The Bench declined to allow bail to the prisoners charged with poaching.

SMALL-POX AND FEVER.

At the Marlborough-street police-court, on Thursday, Mercy Bailey, a woman about thirty-six years of age, who appeared in a bad state of health, was charged by Sergeant Morsley, warrant officer of the court, with having failed to appear to a summons taken out by the School Board authorities for not allowing her daughter Alice, nine years of age, to attend school. —Mr. Robert Carter, an experienced School Board officer, deposed that the prisoner had not sent her girl Alice to school for two years. In the house in which the prisoner resided there had been several cases of small-pox and fever. The room was full of filth, and the effluvia was frightful, and he had been informed that at times the child was so much for the child that he offered to pay for the schooling out of his own pocket, and had succeeded in getting a school for the child. The lodgers in the house had told him that but for what they had done the child must have starved. —The prisoner said she was in a bad state of health—her appearance showed it very clearly—and that she had kept the child with her as a companion. —Sergeant Morsley said he believed the prisoner and her child were really starving. —The prisoner, replying to Mr. Newton, said she had not applied for parish relief because she did not know where to go to. —Mr. Carter said the place where the prisoner could have applied for assistance was close by where she lived, and he believed that the sanitary inspector that visited the place—Sergeant Morsley stated that the girl had told him that she had been supported by the neighbours. The place was a mere dung-heap, and not fit for human habitation. —Mr. Newton ordered the prisoner and her child to go to the workhouse for a week, it being understood that the husband of the prisoner only occasionally visited his wife, and paid little or nothing towards her support.

DISTRESSED LADIES IN IRELAND.

At Sheffield, on Thursday, Countess Fitzwilliam presided over a meeting of ladies to devise measures for the relief of ladies in Ireland who are suffering from the "no rent" agitation. Earl Fitzwilliam narrated many painful cases, where ladies hitherto affluent were now destitute. A subscription was raised, amounting to £1,204, including £400 balance of the Irish Famine Fund. Lady Alice Fitzwilliam was appointed treasurer and secretary, and proceeds to Ireland next Thursday to hand over the money to the Dublin committee.

RECENT WILLS.—Mr. John Thorne, of Elston Hall, Notts, has left £280,000 of personality; Mr. Christopher Pond, of the well-known firm of Spiers and Pond, £215,000; and Mr. Garrard, goldsmith, of the Haymarket, £100,000. The two first named have left handsome legacies for charitable purposes.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—A Court Circular announces that the Queen has conferred the Victoria Cross on the following officers:—Major Arthur G. Hammond, Bengal Staff Corps, for gallantry in defending the top of the hill with rifle and fixed bayonet against a large number of the enemy, and carrying off wounded Sepoys at Assin Heights, near Cabul, on Dec. 14th, 1879. Lieutenant W. H. Dick Cunningham, 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders, for gallantry and coolness in holding his position at Sherpur Pass on Dec. 15th, 1879. Her Majesty also conferred the Victoria Cross on the Rev. S. W. Adams, Bengal Ecclesiastical Establishment, for gallantry in saving some men of the 9th Lancers at Kille Kasi on Dec. 11, 1879, when Chaplain to the Cabul Field Force.

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The Closing Act of the Tragedy

had yet to come. This was the coroner's inquest, which was held an hour afterwards, in the room of the Visiting Committee of the prison. For the ghastly duty of the coroner, the convict's remains there had been an eager competition among the tradesmen of the town no fewer than fifty applications for a place upon the jury having been received. The number of jurors selected was 14, but one candidate was obliged to retire when the jury were challenged by the coroner to say whether they had business contracts with the prison. For the jury, the evidence was merely a statement of the body was identified as that of Percy Leffroy Mapleton, whose death had been decreed by law, and the prison surgeon added the gratuitous information that death had been caused by hanging. As a matter of fact, the convict's neck was found to be dislocated by the fall, so that his death must have been instantaneous. A verdict of death in accordance with the evidence was returned, and the body was fulfilled its stern duty of justice, which had decreed the death of one who, although but 22 years of age, will rank with the most notorious criminals of the century.

Mr. Gold's Watch

There are many circumstances connected with the murder for which Lefroy suffered which are slowly coming to the surface. For instance, with regard to

Mr. Gold's Watch

a correspondent writes:—"Immediately after the jury found their verdict of guilty against Lefroy, he handed a document to some of his friends, from which it appears that he confesses to have taken Mr. Gold's watch, and, finding it impossible to dispose of it without laying himself open to fatal suspicion, he threw it over Blackfriars Bridge into the Thames. Lefroy further says in this document, penned apparently during the progress of the closing stage of the trial, that upon the day of the murder he was desperate owing to his want of money. He rose and went out that morning with the intention of obtaining funds, even though the effort involved murder. At the railway station, before taking his seat for Brighton, he walked up and down, looking into the carriages, in the hope of discovering a lady likely to have some money in her possession, thinking that by merely frightening her he could realise his object. If he could have avoided murder in this way he would, he declares, have done so. If he offered a lady the alternative of "her money or her life" he fancied she would at once have yielded up the former. At any rate, her timidity would reach a point on his presenting a pistol at her which would enable him easily to overawe her. He adds, he could have struck her a blow which might have caused her to swoon, when he could readily have rifled her pockets. Incidentally he remarks that, whatever the method to which he might have had to resort, it would not have been difficult to seize a lady's pocket, as most ladies wear it outside. Seeing no lady whose appearance betokened to him the possession of any considerable sum of money, he turned his attention to the male passengers, and at once nerved himself for the commission of murder. This probably explains a circumstance which the railway officials noticed, namely, his walking up and down the platform, peering into the carriages, as if in search of some one. It has been supposed that Lefroy's confession of the murder of the murderer of Lieutenant Roper was suggested by questions put to him by his solicitor, to which the idea occurred by reason of certain facts that came to his knowledge. So far from its being invented at the last moment, it was deliberately conceived when the trial was closing, with the object of delaying execution of the capital sentence—which he seems to have anticipated—in order that inquiry might be made touching poor Mr. Roper's death, or, if his statement were disbelieved, to clear the ground for raising a plea of insanity."

Last Words.

We are authorised to state that the convict, before his death, made a full confession to the chaplain of the gaol of the murder of Mr. Gold, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence. He also entirely retracted the statement he had made concerning the murder by himself of Lieutenant Roper, and expressed great regret that he had been induced to fabricate the confession of a crime of which in reality he knew nothing.

Truth says in its columns of gossip:—“The ‘irresponsible insanity’ nonsense reached its climax when one daily paper gravely published that Marwood, the executioner, expressed the opinion that Lefroy’s plea of insanity was not a strong one, as the convict seemed to know everything and to talk in a reasonable manner, and wrote so sensibly that it was difficult to think that there could be any insanity.” This view is a correct one; but still, Mr. Marwood is rather an expert in hanging men than in mental metaphysics, and his judgment appears to be a little biased by the fact, that he naturally objects to all endeavours to reduce the number of his jobs, for the same newspaper goes on to inform its readers that he ‘condemned the way petitions for reprieve were often subscribed to by persons who knew nothing of the case.’”

which was to proclaim the accomplishment of the ghastly tragedy within the prison walls. It would be difficult to conceive an execution taking place amid brighter or more cheerful surroundings than those upon which Lefroy's eyes rested for the last time. In the first place, the prison of Lewes is not the gloomy, forbidding abode generally associated with the name of county gaol. It is a new, clean, handsome, castellated building situated on the spur of a hill to the west of the town and overlooking a picturesque valley down which the eye can sweep as far as Newhaven. In the next place, the weather was fine beyond all anticipation. It was a beautiful spring-like morning, as bright and as mild as it would have been in May, and as if to add to the contrast between the aspect of nature and the solemn business in hand, the time fixed for the execution was nine o'clock, an hour later than usual, when the sun had well risen, and the morning mists were beginning to clear off from the downs.

heartily congratulate the Home Secretary for not having paid the slightest attention to the plea of insanity, urged by Dr. Forbes Winslow and the friends of Leifroy. In mitigation of the punishment of that murderer. Neither the friends nor their solicitor do I blame—their are bound to do all that they could for the man; but it is really a high time that Dr. Winslow should realise the fact, that his amiable theory that the world is peopled by irresponsible lunatics, and that he is the only sane person in it, is an illusion of the brain under which he himself is suffering. He should seek rest and quiet, otherwise he will find himself one of these days lodged in a lunatic asylum, on a certificate signed by himself. Leifroy was a weak, vain, and vicious young man. When he wanted money, he stole it. Having got into difficulties, he obtained a supply by passing counterfeit money. In the afternoon he obtained a further supply by murdering a man. There was nothing of insanity in this, and he been allowed to escape. Everyone knows some of our lives would have been spared. Everyone able to show either that some relative had been homicidic, or that his mother had been ill at the time of his birth, would have cut a throat whenever he wanted half-a-crown, with a well-founded conviction that the worst that could occur to him would be to be well taken care of in a lunatic asylum.

was what is known as the north-east yard of the prison—a large enclosed place, sloping to the south, but the high walls of which completely shut out the view of the valley beneath. At the lower end of this yard the gibet was erected. The construction of this black and ghastly apparatus, as already stated, was of a novel character. There was no elevated platform to which it was necessary to gain access by a ladder. The double trapdoor was constructed on a level with the ground, and a deep pit had been dug underneath and built in with brickwork, into which the doomed man should drop on the bolt being drawn. At the other corner of the yard on the lower side, was an equally suggestive spectacle—a rude grave, dug in the chalky soil, with the heap of earth beside it, ready to be shovelled in again. Shortly before nine o'clock Marwood made a final inspection of his apparatus, and with his prisoner's straps, which looked not unlike a horse's bridle, hanging over his arm, received those whose duty it was to be executed at the ghastly ceremony about to be enacted. The details of his business he communicated with a kindly interest to all who chose to hear them. The rope attached to the cross-beam was, he explained, the same as that he had used at the execution of the Preston murder the day before, and, Lefroy being of slight build, he had allowed a drop of nine feet. At a few minutes to nine,

will taken care of. He will not commit a murder in cold blood nor will he have a homicidal mania, which simply means that their impulse to kill is stronger than their respect for human life. What deters many from yielding to this impulse is the fear of the consequences to themselves; and if once this fear were to disappear, murder would be far more frequent than they are. As a rule, the respect for human life is, however, a sufficient deterrent; but it is a curious fact that a murderer who has killed another, if left alone, follows this up by other murders. This is especially the case in poisoning. In these matters, it would appear, *C'est que le premier crime entraîne le second*.

entered a side door of the yard leading to the condemned cell, and almost immediately afterwards the procession consisting of the doomed man to the scaffold emerged therefrom, headed by the chaplain, who read in a loud clear voice, which resounded with startling distinctness through the high-walled prison yard, the solemn and impressive exhortations of the Burial Service. Lefroy, with his arms pinioned, and followed by Marwood, walked between two warders, from whom, however, he needed no support. His face was of a deathly pallor, but he strode with a firm step towards the scaffold, which, on entering the yard, he had sought with his eye. He was dressed in his own clothes, a suit of dark grey, and, fitting closely to his thin, spare figure, made him look considerably the taller of the two. The rest of the procession consisted of the governor of the prison (Captain Brickett), the under-sheriff, the medical officer, and one or two other officials. On reaching the gallows Lefroy hesitated for a moment to trust himself upon

As for Lecroy's confessions, all that one can say is that they may be true, but more probably they are untrue. This unhappy youth was so eaten up with a morbid desire for notoriety, that it is difficult to say how far this passion may have led him. To have let a man who had been convicted of one murder, because he pleased him to assert that he had committed other would indeed have been a strange proceeding.

out, finding it firm, he stepped bravely under the cross-beam, and, turning round so as to face the few spectators present, lent himself to the strapping of his legs and to the adjustment of the halters. This operation seemed to take an unreasonable time. He occupied, no doubt, but a few seconds, but the delay was long enough for the unhappy man's fortitude in some degree to fail him. His features assumed a ghastlier pallor than before—the pallor of a man over whom a cold sweat is breaking—while he sustained himself with evident difficulty. The chaplain's accents, meanwhile, resounded loud and clear. Leffroy, upon whose ear they must have fallen with an impressive distinctness, turned his eyes heavenwards as the white cap was being drawn over his face. In another moment the bolt was drawn and he was no more, the trap falling with a thud which sent a shiver to the stoutest heart. The body dropped completely out of sight. A moment or two more and the

TRUE AND FALSE POLITICAL ECONOMY.

On Monday, at the Mansion House Police-court, Eugene Cowen and Edward Allen Powell, described as picture dealers, of 73, Queen Victoria-street, underwent a final examination, charged with being concerned together in keeping an illegal lottery.—The circumstances attending this case have been fully reported. It was alleged that the prisoners had, under the title of "The Musical and Fine Art Distributing Agency," issued tickets for a "Monster Distribution of Works of Art," the prizes in which, so far from being the high-class articles they were represented to be, were of inferior value.—Mr. Thomas William Evans, a carver and gilder, of Guildford, deposed that his son handed him two tickets in the lottery, numbered 2,972 and 4,690, and also a list of winning numbers. He found that the tickets had gained two prizes of £66. each. On Wednesday, the 19th of this month, witnessed attended at the office in Queen Victoria-street for the purpose of seeing the pictures. He would have had to pay 15 per cent. (or 18s.) on the value, and seeing the defendant Powell, he asked him to show him the prizes. The prisoner showed him some olographs standing on an easel. Witness told him he would not give him 2s. for them. He had come a long way to get the six-guinea prizes, and he considered it was a great deception. The olographs were not worth more than 2s., and such pictures were comparatively valueless. Subsequently witness lodged a complaint with the authorities. He was so annoyed at having to come to town on such an errand that he thought the system ought to be exposed.—Mr. Gould, a picture dealer, of London-wall, proved that the value of the set of five olographs was only 16s. 3d.—Detective-Sergeant Child spoke to having taken to 73, Queen Victoria-street, recently obtained from the prisoners, where he saw a stock of about 3,000 similar olographs.—Mr. Jarrett, an engraver, of Fleet-street, produced a circular which he had given him when he paid the commission for eight-guinea prize. The goods were to be forwarded to his house, but he had not received them or the money. He wished to take the pictures away, but the prisoners would not allow him, as they said they wanted packing.—Mr. Goldberg said he had advised his clients to plead guilty to keeping the lottery, but he denied that there had been any fraud. The moment the defendants heard that the matter was considered an illegal lottery, they sent out circulars to all their customers, and while the case had been adjourned they had sent out 863 post-office orders, amounting in all to £1,024, which sum they had returned. Altogether there had been a actual loss to the defendants of £2,000. Every shilling would be returned to those had bought tickets, and who might not be satisfied.—Mr. Justice, in the prosecution, contended that it was only a scheme to put off upon the public picture dealers. Many complaints had, he said, been received from persons with reference to another similar lottery which had been carried on at Hexham.—Sir Thomas Orwen said he did not think, under the circumstances, he could deal with the case by a fine. He must look upon the defendants as rogues and vagabonds, who had been endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences. He, therefore, sentenced Powell to three months' and Cowen to two months' hard labour.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."
SIR,—I understand that you do not close your columns to correspondence on what I and many others hold to be the vital question of the time, whether or not the downward progress of Britain and British industry can be arrested, and our country made to rank once more among the prosperous nations of the world. Since we adopted, what I, for one, believe to be the fundamentally erroneous and even suicidal policy of Free Trade at the cost of the native producer of all classes—master manufacturer, artisan, landowner, farmer, agricultural labourer, we are all in one boat. I have no hesitation in affirming that we have ceased to produce more than we consume in value of all kinds, and, on the contrary, that we consume vastly more than we produce, and that in an ever-increasing ratio so that in spite of our large foreign capital at home and abroad, we are fast draining away all our national resources, and are on the sure high road to eventual national ruin and bankruptcy.

Mr. C. A. Lewis, coroner for the southern division of Essex, on Tuesday resumed an adjourned inquiry at Canning Town as to the death of a woman named Hannah Mugeridge, aged 34, lately residing at 1A, William-street, Lant-street, Borough, and of her child, Jessie Rose, aged twelve months. The woman left home on the afternoon of the 7th inst., and was discovered by the police drowned in a pond at the back of Scott-street, Canning Town, on the 20th inst.—The evidence showed that the deceased left her home in the Borough on Monday afternoon. She was seen by her husband in the morning, and was then in good health and spirits. She bade good-bye to her eldest child, a girl of ten years of age, and told her that she would not be gone long, but if she did not happen to return he was to tell her (the girl) to get her father's tea ready for him. When she was to get her returned his daughter informed him that her mother had gone out and taken the baby.—In reply to questions by the Coroner, the husband of the deceased stated that he could not account for her leaving home. They had had no quarrel, and, so far as he knew, she was on the best of terms with the whole of her relatives and friends. His wife had never exhibited suicidal tendencies, but she had fretted a good deal at the altered pecuniary circumstances in which the family were placed, and she had thought a great deal about the recent death of her mother.—The coroner then summed the case up to the jury.—The coroner said that though there was no doubt that the deceased had murdered her child, and then committed suicide, there was no evidence on the point. Under these circumstances, he thought it would be best for them to return a verdict that the deceased died from drowning.—The jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict to this effect, and the Coroner remarked that this could not defeat the ends of justice, for if any thing material came to light, the case could be re-opened.

The state of things given recently by Mr. Gladstone—honestly I am perfectly willing to believe—are yet of the most fallacious order, the same gains being counted in them over and over again—a constant source of almost immeasurable error—and all the real facts of the case being utterly obscured, and set on one side, in order to bolster up an economic and popular delusion now quite peculiar to ourselves. True it is, that there is a very large increase in the amount of our commercial dealings, but it is most sadly certain, as all our merchants and all our producers can assure us, that there has been a vast decrease of profit. We have become the great carriers of the world; hewers of wood and drawers of water for more favoured nations, so to speak, but we are fast ceasing to be ranked among its larger producers, and this means growing poverty and eventual ruin. In plain truth and fact, we consume as much and even a year nearly half as much again as we have any reasonable right to do. As has been shown again and again, by living economists, and proved by authentic statistics, the position of the worse in our position as a nation in the last twenty or five and twenty years is a truly awful matter of contemplation. In 1857, we earned by our surplus of home productions, sold abroad, twenty-two millions more than we then spent on foreign food of all kinds. Twenty years later, in 1877, our entire earnings of all kinds fell thirty-seven millions short of what we had to pay for foreign food alone. Is not this an appalling fact? Further, if we add to our entire earnings what we receive as the interest of our capital invested abroad, we shall find that for some years past we have been earning nearly eighty millions a year less than we have spent? In 1857, on the contrary, we earned from sixty to eighty millions more than we spent, wholly apart from any foreign holdings. Our national earnings were then at least a hundred millions a year more than they were in the year 1880, and this terrible change has been effected by so-called Free Trade, unrestricted competition at the expense of our people, and against the productive interests of other countries. It is a fact, and one wisely fostered and protected. The fact is, and it cannot be too plainly stated or widely known, that the primary assumptions of our fashionable political economists are almost all fundamental errors. There is no unlimited choice of employment for the great mass of mankind. They must either find remunerative employment in their own line of business, or leave the country, or cease to be. Food and clothing are the few essential requirements of human life, and a nation that does not develop native agriculture and manufactures to the highest possible degree, which sacrifices either of these vital interests in the hope of obtaining momentary cheapness, adopts an absolutely suicidal policy. This is “slaying the goose that laid the golden eggs.” It is diminishing the essential wealth of the country for the sake of seeming passing cheapness. The notion that things will come right of themselves, and that we have to do is to promote money cheapness and immediate plenty, no matter how obtained, and that we can sacrifice with impunity the best interests of our native producers of all classes for the sake of the essential rights of labour, is the most wicked, and I may add, one of the most selfish and mischievous, that ever entered the mind and heart of man.

On Tuesday, at the Bow-street Police-court, Donald Shaw, aged 38, giving an address in Conduit-street, Regent-street, stated to be an ex-captain of the 86th Regiment, was charged with uttering a forged bill of acceptance for £200.—Mr. F. White, solicitor, said he became acquainted with the prisoner about three weeks ago, and discounted a bill for him for £50, the alleged acceptor being Sir Wm. Verner. That bill was met and paid, and returned to the prisoner. About the 20th he called again, and said that Sir Wm. Verner wanted some money for himself, about £200. On the 23rd he called again, witness having in the meantime communicated with a client, who had made inquiries about Sir Wm. Verner. The result was communicated to the prisoner, who called the next day and with a bill for £200. It was agreed to pay the amount by cheque through Messrs. Cox and Co., the prosecutor's bankers, but the prisoner demurred, and in consequence of which an arrangement was made for the following day, Mr. Prince and Jackson, Sir William Verner's solicitors, being communicated with in the meantime. The prisoner called, and had an interview with Mr. Salmond, witness's partner, by whom he was given into custody.—Mr. Conrad Davis, 12, Old Jewry-chambers, solicitor, deposed that he became acquainted with the prisoner on October 26, with reference to an acceptance for £56, held by the French Jewellery Company for jewellery sold to the prisoner. The prisoner was desirous of taking it up, also a bill purporting to be drawn by the prosecutor for £100. The prisoner asked for Sir William Verner's acceptance, and was given to him and discounted by Mr. James Davis, but witness suggested that the matter would be facilitated if he were to communicate with Mr. James Davis, and receive the money, upon which he would deduct the amount owing to the clients, the French Jewellery Company, and hand the prisoner the balance. He declined to allow witness to communicate personally with Mr. Davis, but he wrote a letter, to which, however, he received no reply. On the 27th the prisoner called again, when he was asked to endorse the acceptance, but he declined, saying, "You are going to have the whip hand of me. Ask your friends if they will discount the bill if it is endorsed." He suggested that he should return the jewellery and get the bills back, representing that he had written to Sir William and stopped his bill. He received a letter purporting to come from the prosecutor, approving of what had been done. The prisoner arranged to call and carry out the proposed exchange of the jewellery for the bills. The exchange was not effected, but he proposed paying the balance of the account when he got the bill discounted.—Sir William Verner, 86, Eaton-square, deposed that he was introduced to the prisoner by Mr. James Davis about four years ago. The two acceptances referred to in evidence, were proved to be forgeries.—The case was remanded.

The exchange of goods between different nations of the world is, of course, a vital necessity of civilization, and competition, within due limits, has very valuable uses, fostering art, skill, and industry, but these must not be carried on at the cost of the sustenance, or even of the well-being, of the productive classes of any country.

Surely the people of England will refuse to be much longer hoodwinked on this subject. As far as this preposterous theory of unrestricted competition at the cost of labour is preached by Adam Smith, or Mill, or McCulloch, and all their followers, they must be regarded as the direct enemies of the country that has listened to them. An intellectual paradox may seem harmless, and even sound clever, as long as it is not acted on; but woe to the country that takes it for a first principle, and proceeds to legislate upon it!

THE DIVORCE COURT.—The business of the Probate and Divorce Division, which has been almost brought to a standstill in consequence of the illness of the president, Sir James Hannen, will be resumed by that learned judge on Tuesday next.

principle, and proceeds to legislate upon it. The policy of pure and unmitigated personal selfishness, that the individual, without any reference to the good of the community, should buy and sell just as it may please himself only, is a policy of pure personal folly, and will always end in national ruin. The unprincipled or thoughtless speculator may only think of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market. The sensible man, who wishes to carry on a lasting trade that will benefit both parties (and without this no trade can be lasting) will wish to buy in the best and sell in the surest market; will when he is likely to get the really best goods at a reasonable rate, and sell when he is likely to be paid, and to carry on a profitable business. Honesty and consideration for others make the best policy even for the individual trader. The nation or community has to consider, first of all, the interest of its own producers, the increase of its own genuine wealth or production, and all kinds. Production comes before exchange. Before we talk of exchange at all we must see that we have something to exchange. To injure or ruin our native producers for the sake of momentary cheapness, which is often not obtained, to sacrifice a nation's productive interests to immediate facility of consumption, is an absolutely suicidal, a positively insane policy. It is that of all our free trade economists, beginning with Adam Smith, the well-meaning author of the whole mischief, who entirely overlooked the interests of producers, and did not see that a nation or community can only consume on the condition of producing first, and in the long run only in the ratio of its productive forces. This fundamental error is common, I affirm, to one and all of the teachers of the so-called dismal science, and therefore all their reasonings, being founded on a wrong basis, are absolutely devoid of reason.

It may be said, and has been said, that the world would be better off if agriculture was only carried forward in the countries best adapted to it, even if the depopulation of lands with a poorer soil or inferior climate should follow. I deny this in toto, for this is as much as to say that unless a man can exercise the highest powers he should exercise none whatever; but, in any case, the argument for free booty, or unrestricted competition, is not worthy of a moment's serious consideration. We, as Englishmen, wish to preserve our native country's greatness. That is impossible, save on the condition of her producing permanently more than she consumes. A single city, like Venice, may live largely on such fetching and carrying, a great country can not. The pursuit of cheapness at every cost is, I repeat, a shallow and vulgar, and even an insane policy. It does not attain its own end, and is only the means by which the former who profits, whilst we, who need his goods, are obliged to pay him commonly his own price, and the more our land goes out of cultivation and our hands lose employment under what I do not hesitate to call the accursed influence of unrestricted competition, the more dependent we become on the foreigner, and the further we advance on the road to ruin.

Other countries—America, France, Australia—are flourishing under high protective duties, because they have the sense to cast overboard those well-meaning sophists Adam Smith, Mill, Bastiat, Say, and all their followers, and to protect and develop all the productive forces of the land; and the time is come when, unless we move resolutely in the direction of fair trade, and the development of our native powers, we shall probably perish as a nation. It is time for the people to arise in their might, before they are improved off the face of the earth. With your permission, I will try to state the true principles of political economy affirmatively on a future occasion, and must subscribe myself, your obedient servant,

A. T. G.

South Wales, Nov. 23.

POLITICAL MEMORANDA.

As a matter of fact, however, to what does lead except to the practical conclusion that a

LARGE GIFT TO THE CITY OF LONDON.—A motion appointing a receiver was made on Friday, before Justice Chitty in the case of Ward v. Kennedy, plaintiff representative of the family of the late Mr. W. Ward, who died on the 26th October last, leaving a net property to the amount of some £25,000. Out of this property was given by the deceased's will to the Corporation of London upon certain charitable trusts, and after various legacies to relatives, the residue of the estate was bequeathed on other charitable trusts to the Corporation of London. The will was dated the 6th of June 1854. According to the last Probate Act, great difficulty was placed in the way of proving wills, among other things, by requiring the testator to make a declaration of the genuineness of the will, and to pay the costs of proving. In the present case, a duty was imposed on the testator that a receiver must be appointed over £2,000, and it was with power to raise the money by mortgage. The Lordship appointed Mr. F.

A farmer named Edward Trickett, residing Whitechurch, was on Wednesday fined at Manx £20 and costs, or two months' imprisonment, for milk adulterated with 30 per cent. of water.

A MERRY UNDERTAKER.—At the Thames Police on Friday, George Fryer, 40, coachman to an under was charged with being drunk and incapable.—See Nathan Lee said early that morning he saw the ant in Oxford-street, Sicgney, driving a pair of in a hearse. He was singing merrily, and cwaying in his seat, whilst the hearse was going from one road to the other. Witness stopped the hearse then found that the defendant was very drunk reply to the charge, the defendant said that he was sorry for what had happened. He had been twenty-five years, and such a thing had never before. On the previous day he had a "job" at it green, and afterwards he was "taking out com at his own time, and he had just had a drop to his mind now,"—Mr. Lushington fined the defend

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